

# THE GATEWAY

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THEIR LOVE FOR SCHOOL HAS BEEN TAINTED The Students' Union Executive protests the increasing costs of postsecondary education in "style." SHAWN BENBOW

## SU Exec pays their tuition '80s-style

COSANNA PRESTON  
Associate News Editor

The Clash's "Rock the Casbah" and posters from *Back to the Future* caught the attention of students and staff as the SU Executive marched into the administration building in full '80s garb to pay their tuition.

The Students' Union made a spectacle paying their tuition for the second year in a row this past Tuesday.

Waving signs including phrases such as, "The fashions were horrible. At least they had tuition right," and "U of A students want to go Back to the Future," the SU's payment plan was their first visual tuition demonstration of the 2003-2004 school year.

Dressed in a cut-off yellow football jersey with big '80s hair and pink lipstick, Vice-President (Student Life) Jadene Mah hoped to inform new students of the ongoing tuition battle and the high increases in the costs of post-secondary education over the past 18 years.

PLEASE SEE TUITION • PAGE 3

## Students' Council debating separation of powers

KRISTINE OWRAM  
News Editor

Students' Council is engaging in divisive debate surrounding a motion by the Internal Review Board (IRB) to separate the judicial, legislative, and executive powers of the SU.

Currently, the Students' Union's powers are technically separated but not clearly delineated, according to business councilor Steve Smith, the primary mover of this proposal and one of IRB's representatives on Council.

While the separation of the judicial body, currently consisting of the Discipline Interpretation Enforcement (DIE) Board, from the other bodies has already been passed in principle, Council has yet to vote on the clear separation of the SU Executive (the executive branch) from Council (the legislative branch).

Smith sees the main problems with the current structure to be the extent of the powers resting in the hands of the two bodies, and the fact that Students' Council isn't being run as effectively as it could be.

"The impetus is to make sure the entity most competent to do something is the one doing it, which I think isn't the case right now. In a lot of cases, we see Council meddling to the

detriment of the organization in matters of executive character, and a lot of times we see the Executive driving Council's agenda to the detriment of the organization," Smith explained.

**"The impetus is to make sure the entity most competent to do something is the one doing it, which I think isn't the case right now."**

STEVE SMITH,  
BUSINESS COUNCILOR

"We're also seeing Students' Council having its agenda driven by matters that aren't of a lot of concern to students. This might seem a little hypocritical for me to say, because separation of powers sure as hell isn't something that's of general concern to students. But what we're seeing is the agenda of Council being driven by the Executive committee, who spend a lot more time talking to members of bureaucracy and the administration than to ordinary students," he added.

PLEASE SEE COUNCIL • PAGE 3

## New centre makes U of A frontrunner in nanotechnology research

JUNG-SUK RYU  
News Writer

The University of Alberta will once again be the centre of attention in the world of science as it steams ahead to construct the National Institute for Nanotechnology (NINT), which will place both the University and the province on the frontlines of nanotechnology research.

In 2001, the National Research Council of Canada, the government of Alberta, and the University joined hands in an effort to create a national centre for nanotechnology research in Edmonton. After two years of planning, the facility will be breaking ground this Saturday and is scheduled to be completed in January 2006.

For David Alton, the director of planning for nanotechnology at the U of A, the fact that Edmonton, and in particular the U of A, was chosen to be the home of NINT was no surprise.

"We were probably doing nanotechnology before the term even existed," said Alton. "We're definitely a leader in this new emerging area."

Nanotechnology can be simply defined as the science of studying "small things."

Despite such a simple definition, the growing field of nanotechnology can

**"We were probably doing nanotechnology before the term even existed."**

DAVID ALTON,  
U OF A DIRECTOR OF PLANNING  
FOR NANOTECHNOLOGY

apply itself to a wide variety of sciences, including pharmacology, engineering and computing. In fact, NINT will be the only nanotechnology institute in Canada that would be able to accommodate such a long list of sciences related to nanotechnology research.

According to Don Hickey, U of A Vice-President (Facilities and Operations), NINT will "speak very well for the University, and its emphasis on all interdisciplinary sciences."

PLEASE SEE RESEARCH • PAGE 2



DAVE MORGAN

INNOVATION IN ACTION The future site of the new nanotechnology centre.



**11** Blog! Have you ever wanted to read the mundane diary of a normal person? How about the rantings of a crazy journalist? Learn about how you can on the net in our feature on blogs.

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### Outside

Thursday Sunny, Enegeon on Cybertron depleted; High 18, Low 4  
Friday Sunny, Autobots leave Cybertron in search of power; High 20, Low 3  
Saturday Sunny, Megatron's Decepticons aren't far behind; High 21, Low 4  
Sunday Sunny, the Transformers' war rages on; High 20, Low 4  
Source: Environment Canada

### From the archives

In late September of 1979, a campus security officer was assaulted by a group of people in the stadium car park just after midnight. The officer tried to stop a male who was hitting and kicking parked cars. The guard was questioning the suspect while a second person began to taunt him. The suspect ran off and the officer was struck by a third man. About a dozen people became involved in the beating, which lasted 15 to 20 minutes. Apparently another officer was present, but did not help the victim and neither Campus Security nor police appeared at the scene. A witness said that approximately fifty people stood and watched the beating. Police would not confirm if the incident had been reported.

1979



**13** Mike Comrie hates the fishbowl atmosphere of his hockey career in Edmonton. Now he's going to have a short-man's complex, thanks to Josh Kjenner's article in Sports.



## THE GATEWAY

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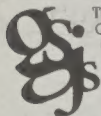
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## colophon

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## Student beats odds to study at U of A

A profile on Chris Stipdonk, the only one in his graduating class to go to university

COSANNA PRESTON  
Associate News Editor

Coming from a town of only 1200 and being the only person from his graduating class to go on to university isn't stopping Chris Stipdonk from racing past the challenges of big city life.

A first-year recreation student at the University of Alberta, Stipdonk is an athlete from Fort Simpson, Northwest Territories, who moved to Alberta in search of proper coaches and a good education in a bigger, more anonymous community.

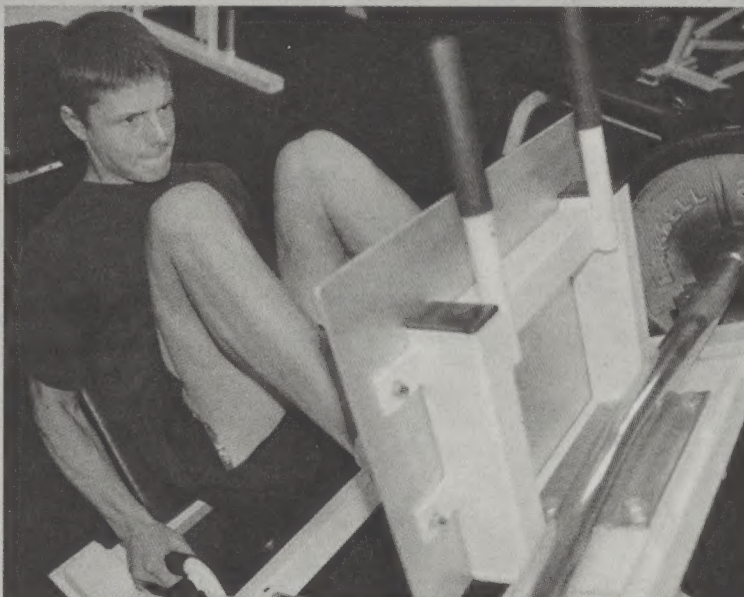
"I wanted a track coach and I needed to get away from the small community. I heard good things about the track team and in general heard about U of A. Plus, it's close to home, or it's one of the closest to home, so I decided to come here," he explains.

Stipdonk moved down south for more of a challenge, hoping to find personal success. Though he has played many team sports in the past, Stipdonk chose to focus on the more individual sport of running, an event he started practicing only last year.

"I chose running because it is an individual kind of thing. You don't rely on anybody and nobody relies on you," he says. "If you win it is because of how you performed and if you lose it is because of how you performed whereas in a team sport you have to work together and there weren't enough people [back home] to even make a team to work together."

Soft-spoken and extremely focused, Stipdonk has always been involved in sports, but growing up in a small northern community made it difficult for him to gain the experience and skills he needed to be truly competitive in any one sport.

"As a child I always wanted to be a professional at something," he says. "One week it was baseball, another week it could have been soccer. Since I was young I have been playing soccer, hockey, badminton, and cross-country running. I enjoy mountain biking, baseball, just about anything that involves sports ... but people who play soccer usually are on the baseball



SHAWN BENBOW

**DRIVEN TO SUCCEED** U of A student Chris Stipdonk, from a town of 1200.

team and the people who are on the baseball team are on the track team [at home]. There are only certain amounts of people who play sports and there are not many teams. They don't cut people from teams. They're glad to accept people."

The lack of community sports is not

**"As a child I always wanted to be a professional at something. One week it was baseball, another week it could have been soccer."**

CHRIS STIPDONK,  
U OF A RECREATION STUDENT

the only difference up north. There are other challenges facing the smaller communities.

Stipdonk was one of 150 students at his school where, out of the eight graduates, only three continued on to postsecondary education. Stipdonk was the only one to go to a university. Most people stay and work in the mines or in other high-paying jobs that don't require postsecondary education, according to Stipdonk.

Stipdonk resisted the fiscally tempting jobs up north to move to a campus 25 times the size of his community. However, he took the move in stride, only being surprised by the hectic and polluted tendencies of the city.

"We don't have a five o'clock rush hour. I find it really busy here in comparison to back home. Back home you walk by someone and they say hello because they know you, and even if they don't know you they say hello, because back home is really friendly. Here it is just people walking by and you have no idea who you are going to bump into. The environment is different also. I live ten feet away from the Mackenzie River, so we can just hop down the cliff and go swimming. Here, the lakes are kind of dirty. I was in Hawrelak Park and you couldn't go swimming because of all the litter and the other stuff that's in there."

Eventually, Stipdonk wants to become a professional athlete, but says there are many steps he will have to take before he can make this serious choice. He is currently injured so he has to heal before he can focus on the future.

"I have a stress fracture in my right leg so I can't run for a while. I just want to keep my fitness up so I can come back in good enough shape for the track season. I would still really like to run professionally but I think there are smaller steps I need to overcome, like going from the U of A team to a smaller national team to a national team to national competitions to international competitions."

For now, Stipdonk is taking life's opportunities as they come. He answers meekly when asked where he sees himself after his running career is over.

"I don't know what is going to happen. I am just kind of going with the flow."

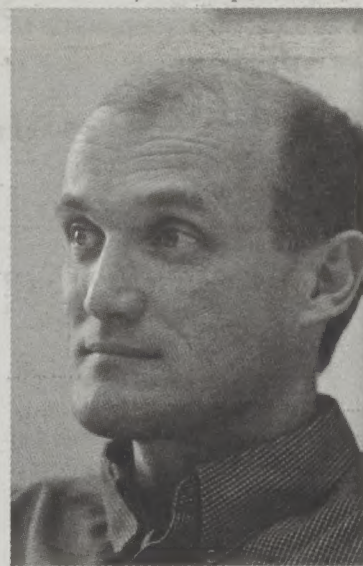
## Nanotech centre to cost \$120 million

RESEARCH • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In order to eliminate all outer and inner distractions that could cause a slight but costly error when dealing with objects as small as atoms, NINT had to be designed in a very innovative and cost-effective manner, according to Hickey. The facility will be comprised of smaller buildings built within a large exterior structure that will buffer noise, vibration, and electromagnetic effects from outer sources. As well, a large filter will be built into the building in order to eliminate any molecules of dust or other solid matter from entering.

The facility will be six stories, creating approximately 20 000 square meters of research space. A total of \$120 million has been invested into this project, with \$60 million coming from the National Research Council, and the remaining half coming from the government of Alberta and the university.

Carlos Langes, an associate professor in the faculty of engineering, sees NINT as a worthwhile investment that both the university and Alberta deserve. He believes that greater attention will be placed on nanotechnology and more investment opportunities will be created in Alberta as a result of NINT. "There's no doubt that the U of A has been chosen because of its past history of research. And there's no doubt that this investment will benefit the University and our province."



DAVE MORGAN

**DAVID ALTON** Director of planning.

## STREETERS

Campus radio station CJSR's annual Fundrive will end on Sunday.

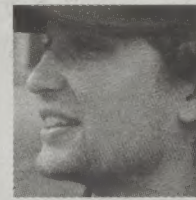
What radio stations do you listen to?



**Dave Terriff**  
Science V



**Kurt Morrison**  
Engineering III



**Jeff Demaniuk**  
Science II



**Ryan Kohlenberg**  
Engineering II

I usually listen to CBC. I listen to campus radio every so often. I listen to CJSR because my girlfriend has a show, but not other than that. I haven't taken the time to listen to anything else. Every once in a while I flip the radio on to CJSR.

I rarely listen to radio because I prefer my own CDs. I've never listened to CJSR because I have never known what's on it or what's good and what's bad. I would listen to it if there was a type of program on that I thought I would enjoy.

I listen to country and oldies on 103.9. I have listened to CJSR a couple times. I would rather listen to country and oldies but I am going to try and listen to CJSR a little bit just to see what it's all about. I heard they had some good fiddle music one time.

Radio in Edmonton is pretty crappy. Sometimes I listen to CJSR. I just flip through stations and if something good is on, I will stop. It's good that campus has a radio station. It gets the information out. There is good information on there sometimes and good music. It gets some good music you don't hear on the regular radio stations, and it's kind of nice not to have to listen to the same thing over and over again.

Compiled and photographed by Caitlin Crawshaw and Shawn Benbow



## SU hopes to raise awareness about tuition levels

TUITION • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We're hoping to raise awareness that tuition fees have skyrocketed since the year that this year's first-year class was born. Tuition levels have risen to five times what they were in 1985," said Mah.

This year's annual report from Alberta Learning contained a question asking Albertans about postsecondary accessibility. Two years ago, 75 per cent of Albertans felt postsecondary education was accessible. As of this year, that percentage has dropped to 52 per cent. SU President Mat Brechtel expressed concern about the accessibility of education to the average Albertan.

"We have almost half of Albertans thinking that they won't be able to come here," said Brechtel. "If [tuition] continues rising along this path, in 18 years we're going to have tuition at five times what it is now, and that's unacceptable. Most people in the province won't be able to save that much money

because there are very few people in the province that have that earning potential."

Phyllis Clark, Vice-President (Finance and Administration), was hesitant to link cost to accessibility. She stated that the University provides \$41 million a year to students through student loans, grants, scholarships, and bursaries, and that accessibility has a lot to do with attitudes toward postsecondary education.

"The reality is there is money around. The problem is perception. It's people's attitudes about education and going to university. There's completing high school with good enough marks and there's the family attitude about going to university. There's a booming economy and options where people can make good money and they have to think about immediate money versus long-term gain."

Clark suggested that the largest problem with accessibility is capacity. The

University has had to raise its entry marks because it no longer has the space, staff support or funding for its large influx of students.

The administration and the Students' Union do agree on one thing, however. Both sides want more funding from the government. MLAs will be the target of the SU's campaign for more funding. Phyllis Clark says the administration is in full support and is very excited that this year's SU is lobbying the government, emphasizing that government contributions need to be the focus of tuition campaigns.

"In Alberta in the 1980s, for every dollar we used to get in tuition we got ten dollars from the provincial government. Now for every dollar we spend we get \$2.30. We're meeting to talk about how we can work together to get more money from the government. High marks to the Students' Union this year who want to lobby the government effectively," said Clark.



**WAITING TO PAY** Many students line up to meet the deadline to pay their tuition on Tuesday, 30 September.

## Opponents of separation fear lack of communication

COUNCIL • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I know, because I sat on the Exec last year, and I wouldn't have recognized an ordinary student if he'd come up and punched me in the gut."

If the proposed separation is passed by Council, the president and the vice-presidents of the Students' Union would no longer sit as voting members.

The other major change, according to Smith, is that "the Executive committee reports would no longer undergo the type of farcical, pretend approval they currently do."

However, there are members of both the Executive committee and Council who see problems with this proposal.

According to SU President Mat Brechtel, the fact that the Executive members are elected by students means they should have a vote on Students' Council in principle.

"An election is important to determine who is the best value match for the constituents, because the purpose of a governing body is to determine the values of the students and implement them in actions," he explained. "If we're debating whether having the Executive vote is good or not, I think [both the Executive and Council] are qualified to vote."

Both engineering councilor David Wepler and arts councilor Heather Wallace agreed.

"We are a student government. We are not the government of Canada. We are not even the provincial government," said Wallace.

"This will not serve students, because a separation of powers sepa-

rates us, literally. It's about communication, and I don't understand why we'd want to separate our powers if we can work together and we can do it in a way where there's accountability and transparency."

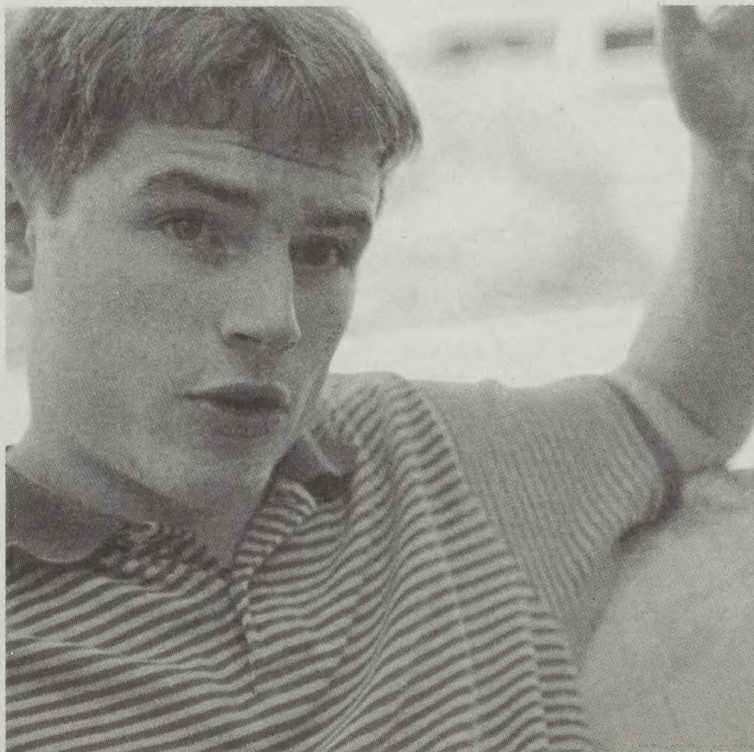
According to councilor Wepler, the separation of the Executive committee and Council will result in a lack of communication and cooperation between the two bodies, which will only harm the students they purport to represent.

"We should be leaders first, then politicians," he said.

Smith also wants to do what's best for students, but he maintains that a separation of powers will ultimately result in a more democratic Students' Union.

"This is my view of democracy," he said. "Students elected us so we can worry about these things so they don't have to."

The motions proposing the separation of the Executive and Students' Council are up for their second of three readings at the 7 October Council meeting in University Hall, starting at 6pm.



**LOOK OUT!** Business councilor Steve Smith is about to throw "change" at you.

## THE GATEWAY

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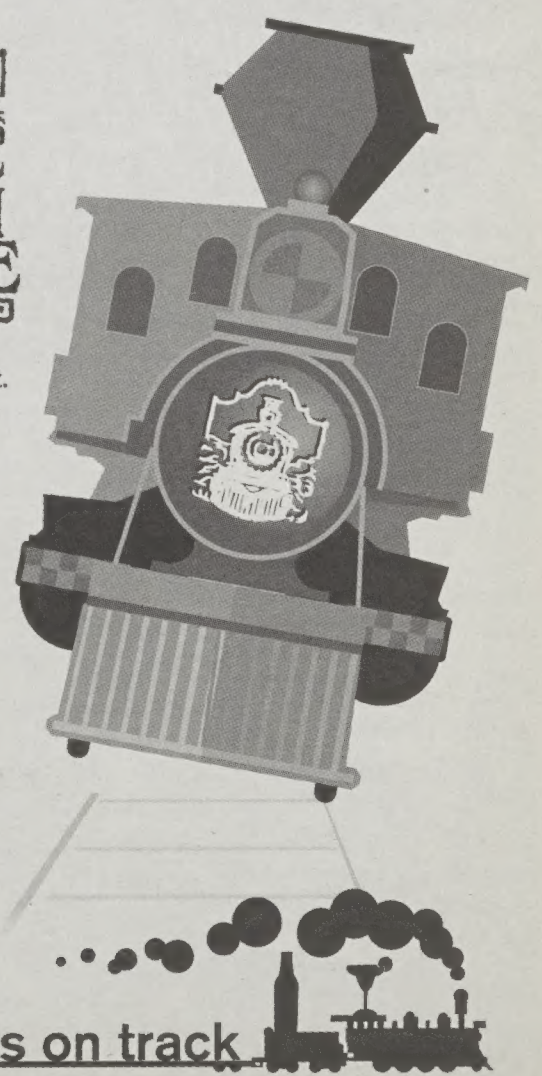
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**University of Alberta Information Sessions**  
**Tuesday, October 7 at 6:00 PM**  
**Monday, October 27 at 12:00 PM & 4:00 PM**  
**All 3 sessions will be in**  
**Humanities Centre Lecture Theatre # 3**

## NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Compiled by Caitlin Crawshaw

### TWO CREAMS, ONE SUGAR AND A HINT OF MARIJUANA

MONTRÉAL (CUP)—Montréal is likely to see the arrival of Chez Marijane, a pot café, by the end of September.

But police say they will not be tolerant of people looking to puff with their morning coffees. "Whether or not you open a place that allows pot smoking, it's still illegal to possess marijuana, according to the Criminal Code, and we will not tolerate that at all," said Constable Yannick Ouimet.

Pot Party leader Hugô Saint-Onge argues that Café Marijane will eventually open and that he is not pressured by police enforcements. "They want to arrest people and frighten them, but we want to end the marijuana prohibition, and we will work toward that."

Vanier College students, who were quite amazed by the news of the café's opening on St-Denis Street, had lots to share on the issue.

"At least I could smoke a joint without watching my back all the time," said one student.

According to Health Canada, cannabis use among students has greatly increased since the 1990s. This fact is nothing new to many Vanier students, such as Mohammed Hamid.

"I've been seeing students smoke this shit ever since high school," said the second-year science scholar. "Maybe the arrival of this café may lower weed smoking on streets and campuses," he added.

But some people are questioning the power police have to stop people from smoking marijuana.

"Grass-smoking is a growing trend; they did it in the '70s and they're still doing it now. As long as it stays a trend, authorities cannot stop its spread,"

argued a history teacher from Émile-Legault High School in Montréal.

The final decision concerning the opening of the pot café is to come within the next few weeks.

Ali Mansouri, *The Echo*

### BARING IT ALL ON CANADIAN REALITY SHOW

TORONTO (CUP)—Tassled, leopard-print g-strings may be the new fashion trend at Toronto's Ryerson University thanks to radio and television arts (RTA) graduate Jordan Wade.

Wade, 25, stripped down to his fancy underwear in the alley behind Sam the Record Man in June. He was auditioning for *Strip Search*, a new reality show that premiered 20 September on Bravo.

"We initially were going to tape it in the quad," said Morgan Elliott, producer of *Strip Search* and fellow RTA graduate. "But commencement ceremonies were happening all day. He still wanted to do it there but we said no."

Wade was unavailable for comment, but Elliott said she loved his audition. "He was one of the racier auditioners," said Elliott. "You could tell he put a lot of thought into it."

*Strip Search* follows the creation of a male dance troupe from auditions to training camp to the final selection of six dancers. The men, who Elliott called "average, ordinary guys," have never danced professionally.

Auditions for *Strip Search* were held in Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax. The series is based on a hit show from New Zealand called *Thunder from Down Under*. It is about the creation of a dance troupe that will ultimately perform for audiences in Las Vegas.

Elliott, an Emmy-nominated producer, is happy to be working on a Canadian show. Disdainful of most American reality television shows, Elliott said this one is different. "It is for the 19-plus audience," she said.

"But we're not doing anything sleazy or lewd. No one's going completely starkers."

The 13-part series is hosted by Much

Music's Bruce Turner and Second City's Misty Lowery and will showcase the auditions.

Patricia Ocampo, *Ryersonian*

### DEMONSTRATORS DEMAND TROOPS LEAVE IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN

VANCOUVER (CUP)—Shoppers gawked and tourists reached for their cameras as over 1000 people marched against war and occupation in the streets of Vancouver on 28 September.

The protest's route began and ended outside the Vancouver Art Gallery, where demonstrators listened to speakers who told them that the ongoing wars in Afghanistan and Iraq continue to kill, and that the occupations of those countries as well as Palestine must end.

"Now they are trying to get Canada into this war, and Canada should maintain its stance," Dr Ali Mihirig, a Muslim community activist, said of the United States-led war in Iraq.

Demonstrators chanting, "Troops out now," backed up traffic for blocks as they carried their placards down Robson Street.

"Occupation is a crime," said Bill Saunders, president of the Vancouver and District Labour Council. "And if you're confused on that point, just consider for a minute if we had foreign troops in this city, and they were walking around with guns and the ability—without reference to any law or process—to determine your life or your death."

The rally also marked the third anniversary of the start of the al-Aqsa intifada in 2000. On 28 September of that year, Ariel Sharon, then an Israeli opposition leader and now Prime Minister, visited the Jerusalem holy site known as al-Haram ash-Sharif, or the Temple Mount, with over 1000 police. The next day, police shot and killed four demonstrators, igniting protests throughout the occupied territories. More than 3400 people have been killed, including over 2600 Palestinians and 800 Israelis, since the second Palestinian uprising began.

Stephen Hui, *British Columbia Bureau*

## MP leads charge for same-sex marriages

SEAN P SULLIVAN  
Atlantic Bureau

FREDERICTON (CUP)—Svend Robinson doesn't back down from a fight.

The federal MP came out swinging against critics of same-sex marriage, the Canadian Alliance, and New Brunswick Premier Bernard Lord during an appearance at the University of New Brunswick last Wednesday.

In his presentation, Robinson launched a passionate defense for same-sex marriages, a debate that he says is fundamentally about choice.

"My partner, Max, and I should have the same choice that others have to decide whether or not we want to celebrate the joy and love of our relationship in front of our family, friends, and community through marriage," Robinson said.

Robinson, a long-time activist for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LBGTQ) rights, has been at the forefront of recent Parliamentary debates over gay marriages. He was in town as part of the university's Sexuality Awareness Week.

"There's this myth that somehow if we allow equality for marriage for gay and lesbian couples, this is going to mean the collapse of marriage for heterosexuals," he continued.

"If heterosexual marriage is that fragile," Robinson joked, "I'm not the threat to it."

Robinson challenged suggestions that marriage should remain unchanged because of tradition, reminding the audience that spousal abuse and rape within marriage was

legal until just recently in Canada.

"[Marriage] has changed; it's changed because society has realized it's got to change. Recognition of same-sex partnerships is a part of that."

**"It's been a long, hard road, but we're here. Every step of the way, [the government] has had to be dragged, kicking and screaming, to accepting equality."**

SVEND ROBINSON,  
FEDERAL MP

Jim Cogle, president of the Fredericton Constituency Association for the Alliance party, doesn't agree.

"The problem [with same-sex marriages] is using the word marriage," explained Cogle. "The word marriage means a man and a woman, so changing the definition could take away from those people who are in a heterosexual marriage."

"If they want to have some kind of union it isn't a problem," he continued.

Robinson also chastised the Premier for his inaction on the same-sex marriage issue.

A recent survey suggests only one in three New Brunswickers support same-sex marriage.

Robinson explained his private member's bill, Bill C-250, which was passed earlier this month in Parliament despite fierce objections from religious

groups and the Canadian Alliance.

The bill will expand the definition of "identifiable groups" in the Criminal Code's hate propaganda law to include persons targeted because of sexual orientation.

"It's been a long, hard road, but we're here," he told the audience. "Every step of the way, [the government] has had to be dragged, kicking and screaming, to accepting equality."

Last week, former Canadian Alliance leader Stockwell Day told the *Brunswickian*, the University of New Brunswick's student newspaper, that an amendment in the bill that excludes "an opinion based on a belief in a religious text," doesn't go far enough.

"There are five areas of the Criminal Code legislation where somebody could use Bill C-250 to file charges under the hate provisions related to religion," said Day.

Robinson was quick to point out that the intent of the bill is not to criminalize religion, but to protect gay people who are often the target of violent attacks.

"[Currently], you can't promote hatred or violence or genocide on the basis of race, religion, colour, or ethnic origin," Robinson said.

"But when the police tell you there's one group that is targeted for violent hate crimes more than any others, and that's the one group that isn't actually included in the legislation, what kind of signal does that send out?" he continued.

Robinson said the bill protects religious freedom, and that to make accusations to the contrary is "fear mongering of the worst sort."



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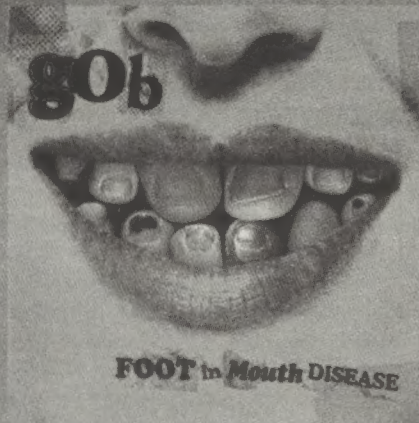
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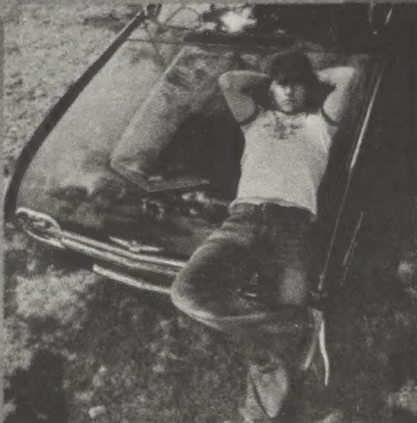
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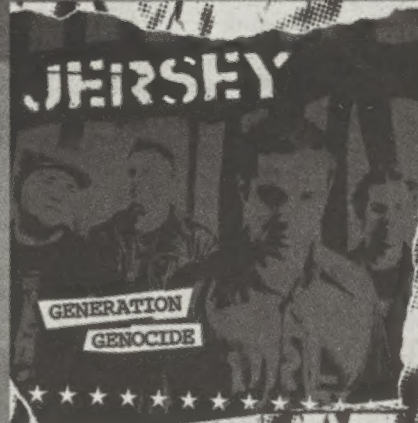
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## Like women's rights? Welcome to feminism

I CONSIDER MYSELF A FEMINIST. It comes as a shock to many people that a male would label himself as such, in an era where many, perhaps even a good deal of liberal-minded women, are shying away from the term. It seems like most people have been truly scared away from being labeled a feminist.

To some people, a feminist is a man-hating, bra-burning, rabble-rouser who doesn't smell very nice because showers are a tool of male oppression. To others, feminism is just part of a radical political agenda which involves dismantling capitalism and eating vegan Chinese food. "Moderate" and "male" are words that rarely come to mind when the "F" word is mentioned.

Three years ago, when I was a young pup in second year, my Film Studies 205 class had a discussion on feminist perspectives in film. During the course of the discussion, one of the guys in the class became vocally disturbed that under one of the definitions of feminism, he would be considered a feminist.

The definition that he was so scared of: that a person who thought that men and women should be treated equally should be labeled a feminist. The word has gained such a negative connotation that a fairly even-minded young man who wasn't against women in any way was willing to draw a huge discussion to oppose feminism.

This isn't only limited to males; I can count the number of times I've heard females utter the phrase, "Well, I'm not a feminist, but..." before espousing some sort of left-wing or even centrist view. People who would have been pure feminists twenty or thirty years ago are rejecting the label now. In many ways, it has become super-radicalized. And as a moderate male, I don't really fit into that mold.

It can be argued that some of the views that were radical before and during the sexual revolution, such as the ideal that men and women are equal or at least should have equal opportunities, have become moderate themselves. Following this line of thought, it's a good thing that less people call themselves feminists, because that means that the ideals of feminists of yore have become mainstream.

I, however, disagree with this argument. I think that if you believe in women's rights, whatever "women's rights" means to you, you should embrace the feminist label. Without this focus point, without making it an important part of who you are, it's easy to forget exactly what it is you believe in.

Personally, I find the wholesale negative reaction to feminists in general makes a person look at women's rights in a subtly lower light, even if that change is subconscious.

Since I've labeled myself a feminist, I always have to defend why I do so. This constant discourse keeps my ideas fresh and my arguments for my beliefs sharp. It's important that all people who have an opinion on women's issues open themselves up to this same experience. Without it, proponents of women's rights, even the ones who are moderates, may lose the passion for their fight to apathy.

Then again maybe I'm overreacting, and I don't know what I'm talking about. After all, I'm just a crazy male feminist.

DANIEL KASZOR  
Production Editor

## Be kind to my ulcer

MY BEEF TODAY IS WITH THE UNFRIENDLY, grumpy-looking students in SUB. Admittedly, University life brings irritation, sadness and even, as in my case, ulcers.

Sometimes we cry ourselves to sleep, or self-medicate with substances best left alone. But have we all lost the decency to greet one another with something other than a scowl, grumble or look of discomfort?

If university life is such a tortured, constipated experience for everyone, why remain here, rather than to roam the world or try one's luck at any number of things a person could try doing.

I implore ye, do not scowl when I pass, but be a human being, as I know you can do. Be kind to my ulcers: smile!

CAITLIN CRAWSHAW  
Associate News Editor

## LETTERS

### The real premise of Christianity

In the 30 September *Gateway*, Ben Maklowich states that the basic premise of Christianity is to "love one's neighbour as God loves you" ("Marriage is more than a 'procreation-contract'"). Actually, Jesus says otherwise in Matthew 22:36-38. When asked, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replies: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment."

What does it mean to love God wholeheartedly? First, loving our Creator involves admitting that we need his help to love him; he must "birth" or plant this love in us. Second, as God helps us to love him through faith in his Son Jesus, he bids us to grow in true love for him by obeying his commands. As Jesus stated in John 14:21, "whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me."

Contrary to popular opinion, obeying God's commands brings joy and freedom to our own lives: freedom from addictions, lies, fear and many other things. Furthermore, it brings health and prosperity to our marriages, families, communities and nation. One of God's commands is: "Do not practice homosexuality; it is a detestable sin" (Leviticus 18:22). This commandment is reiterated implicitly in the New Testament as well: "So God let them go ahead and do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. And the men, instead of having normal sexual relationships with women, burned with lust for each other" (Romans 1:24, 26-27).

Sadly, it's true that "heteros destroyed marriage long ago" and that the rates of adultery and divorce are astronomically high. Regardless, is this a sufficient reason to throw open the door for further distortion and immorality? Since we have already made a mess of marriage, should we not stop there and work to reverse the damage instead of desecrating it even more?

SCOTT BRIMACOMBE  
Arts Alumnus 2000

### Scripture shouldn't be taken literally

The issue of gay marriage has brought forth many letters in the *Gateway*. One particular letter writer, Scott Brimacombe ("Same sex marriages don't follow God's plan," 25 September), states that gay marriage disrupts God's divine plan and Leviticus 18:22 clearly states that sexual relations between two men are strictly forbidden.

Thanks for your insight, Scott. I would like to add that there are other abominations occurring on this very campus that should not be forgotten amidst this silly gay marriage debate.

First, I feel that there just aren't enough animal sacrifices in this day and age. We ought to bring those

back. Leviticus 9:2 states that God finds the odour of burning sheep and cattle to be especially pleasing.

I also find that I simply have too much schoolwork, and a slave would prove quite useful. What's that, God? I can purchase a slave so long as he or she is from a neighbouring country (Leviticus 25:44)? Think you'd prefer a child slave instead, because they have those small hands that are better suited for grabbing that roller skate you ran over with your lawnmower? Hey, God has you covered, and he makes it even easier by specifying that you may buy the children of foreigners living among you (Leviticus 25:45).

I've also noticed that kids are cursing a little too much nowadays. So would 10 October be a good day for everyone in the community to stone them to death, as suggested in Leviticus 24:10-16?

As you can see, God's word isn't as static and all-inclusive as some would like to believe. Many of the rules God created were established in a specific context and period in history which makes them somewhat inapplicable today. Further, if people are going to use God's word as leverage in an argument, they should be aware of all of God's teachings, not just the few that they find relevant.

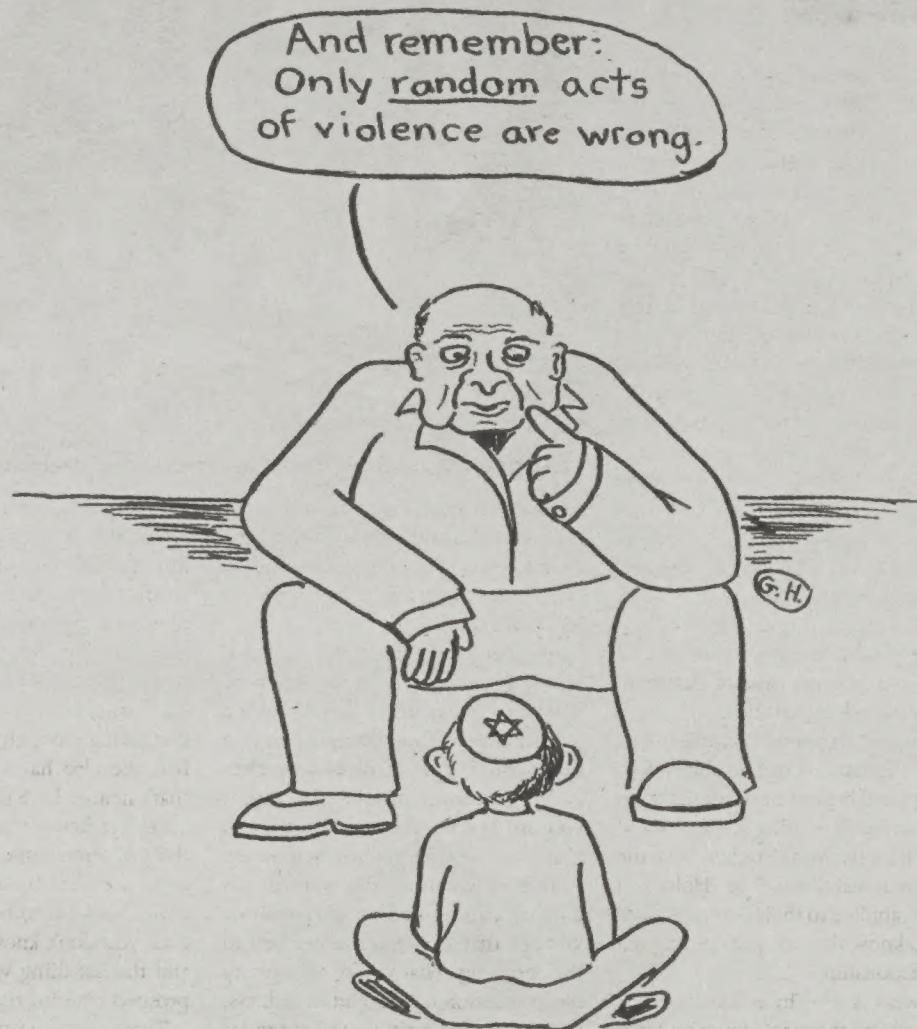
The last time I checked, there was a division between Church and state, rendering the Church's intervention in the government's gay marriage debate unwelcome and irrelevant.

CECILY POOHKAY  
Arts III

### The last letter on same-sex marriage

This letter is in response to the letters "Same-sex marriages

## Israel contemplates assassinating Arafat



don't follow God's plan" and "Iva Cheung ignorant" in the Thursday, 25 September issue.

Two letters ran last week opposing the Canadian recognition of same-sex marriage, and both used the same "slippery slope" argument, almost word for word: "If a man is allowed to marry a man, than [sic] why not his brother, daughter, pet dog, or even all three?" This is called *reductio ad absurdum*, and it's becoming a bore.

I suppose the writers are trying to frighten liberals by evoking a dystopian world in which every man is married to his dog. It's not working. No Pandora's Box will be opened by this legislation; the fabric of society will not unwind. Men and women will continue to get married, in much higher numbers than gays.

What's more, the gays who will now, at last, be allowed to formalize their long-term, loving relationships will finally quiet down for a while, thus leaving the homophobes in peace. Everybody wins!

As for the dogs, if they really want in on the fun, let them form their own lobby group.

SCOTT SHARPLIN  
Humanities Computing I

### Faculty of Arts cutbacks clarification

Kevin Ma's article on cutbacks within the Arts department ("We are cutting bones: Arts departments struggle with funding cutbacks," 25 September) contains a number of statements that require clarification.

The article states that the faculty faces "potential six- to seven-per-cent budget reductions by 2006." At no point in our deliberations have we discussed or projected such a

figure, which I must assume to be purely speculative on the part of Mr Ma or one of his interviewees. I would ask readers to disregard it. The only correct figure is the 5.2 per cent budget reduction over 4 years that all faculties have been asked to plan for.

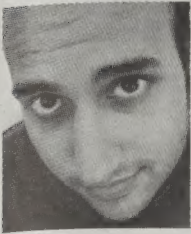
Mr Ma also cites a general lack of optimism about the future of the Faculty of Arts. I should tell you that I feel very differently. Our present budget situation, though difficult, is no different from many of the storms weathered by Faculties, past and present, across the country (including this one during the mid-'90s, a much more serious set of university-wide budget constraints than currently in play). I know this from personal experience, having been a faculty member and administrator at two other institutions in different regions.

We are and will remain one of Canada's great liberal arts faculties, blessed with a wealth of resources and talents unparalleled in all but a handful of the country's finest universities. We pride ourselves on the adaptability of our students to different circumstances and job situations. I don't have the slightest doubt that the faculty is similarly adaptable to short-term challenges such as this. Nor have I any doubt that the process of reviewing our activities and processes will lead to a clearer sense of conviction about those which we feel are most crucial to our mission of teaching, research, and service. In short, I feel highly optimistic about the future, and I am confident that the vast majority of my colleagues and our students feel the same way.

DANIEL WOOLF  
Dean of Arts



# It's time to live again, darling



JAGDEEP  
DHADLI

"Don't ask her out man, she's on the rebound." Such was the advice the drunk guy puking into a urinal at the Powerplant offered to me when I explained my predicament.

See, there was this girl (isn't there always?) and I met her through a friend at the bar and we got to chatting. Things were going swimmingly when the conversation took a dark turn: we both realized that not only did we share a love of collecting Sir Francis Bacon caricatures, but were new to singlehood.

Her relationship had been even more intense than mine; she had been dating her dude for years—obviously she would be carrying some baggage, but should that preclude me from making a move, getting a date, falling in love, having her spend the rest of her life living in my parents' basement and falling asleep unfulfilled?

The word "rebound" has become a highly stigmatized one in the soiled-condom and broken-hearted landscape of the university dating scene. A lot of guys and gals would rather hear the term "venereal disease" or "Holocaust denier" applied to their potential mate than to know they are just coming out of a relationship.

So, what is it? Why is it such a misstep to throw the mack down on Little Miss Newly Available?

I suppose one of the problems may be that the rebounder (especially if they were on the receiving end of the break up) will be comparing you to their last pork pie. It's never easy to start something when you're auto-



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: SHAWN BENBOW

**REJECTION** Is it inevitable if you like someone on the rebound?

matically being judged against some cat that she already believed had boyfriend potential. Living in the shadow is never easy; just ask Julian Lennon or MC Hammer, Jr.

Another foreseeable problem is that she may just want to have a good time and enjoy her penisless freedom for a few months without jumping in to a relationship. This involves very clear and open communication, because if you are not on the same page, you may think you've got yourself a new girlfriend, when all she wanted was a dance partner and an ultra-realistic vibrator that would make her bed in the morning. That could be a pretty dicey situation, apt to end in sadness, depression and a newfound appreciation of country music.

So are the drunks and advice-laden friends correct? When the girl drops the "I've just got out of something" line, should you pull out faster than Maverick with a bogie on his tail?

I'd have to say no. Acknowledging

all I've said above, I don't think a rebound relationship is necessarily a lost cause. But it is harder. To be successful, be honest and don't expect too much right away. Tell the comely lass you dig her flow, remind her that regardless of her dick-smoking ex, she's still beautiful, sexy, intelligent, interesting—hopefully, if I'm styling her, she also has low standards, but that's neither here nor there.

Let her know that you offer something different, unique, and pure. Don't lie to her, she's fucked up enough and if you turn out to be a lying monkey-cock you don't know how she'll react and the last thing we need is another prospect entering the nunnery.

There comes a time for all the jilted to begin to live again, and if you be cool and keep things open you can be The New Guy. And by that I mean her new fella, not a terrible movie starring that malnourished twat from Road Trip. God bless you, new guy. And God bless us, everyone.

MORE LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

## Women-only space is discriminatory

This letter is regarding the article "Safe Spaces for Women To Open In SUB" (30 September).

I find it ridiculous that Meagan Johnston of the Women's Centre Collective justifies the creation of a women-only space by saying that "we believe women live in a society in which gender inequality exists." To Johnston's credit, women do. What she overlooks is that men do also. By refusing students access to an area on campus on the basis of gender, the Women's Centre Collective is enforcing a sexist policy. Whether the policy is sexist toward women or men should not matter—it is sexist nonetheless.

Hence, I can only conclude that the Collective's definition of sexism is not "discrimination toward any individual based on gender," but rather, "discrimination towards women based on gender." A sexist definition to sexism? Gotta love the irony.

Aliya Jamal, also of the Women's Centre Collective, mentions that "gender inequality does exist in society. There seem to be a lot of spaces in society that are men-only." I challenge Jamal to stop speaking in vague generalities and name one such space that does not have a female equivalent (like say, a locker room). That being said, since with the creation of this women-only space it is clear that men are being discriminated against, so what's to stop a men's group from creating such a space with parallel reasoning to the Women's

Centre Collective? I have a feeling that the Collective would advocate strongly against any space women were barred from, using their one-sided view of what constitutes sexism.

But let's just say for a moment that the men's only area was allowed also. If the University allows students to be barred entry to an area based on gender, what about race? What if another group wanted to have a "whites only" or "blacks only" area? Obviously, to have any area on campus where any group is forbidden entry based on skin colour, gender, or sexuality is absolutely unfair, regardless of what the skin colour, gender, or sexuality of that group is. Discrimination is discrimination, regardless of who is being discriminated against.

DANA WATTS  
Education III

## Women shouldn't just run and hide

I'm writing in response to "Safe spaces for women to open in SUB," 30 September.

I find the creation of this space extremely hypocritical and offensive both to the men and women on this campus. Now before you all jump down my throat, I'm perfectly aware that violence against women happens on campus. What I take issue with is the fact that this will be, as SU President Mat Brechtel said, the only space on campus not freely accessible to all students.

I think that women shouldn't have to feel that the only space they can be safe on campus is the 4th floor of SUB, hiding in a corner. This is my 5th year on campus

and I have never once felt threatened or intimidated by anyone, male or female. I feel comfortable being alone anywhere on campus, at any time of day, and the thought that I shouldn't feel that way, that I need a safe place to go, offends me.

I have also never in my life encountered a men-only space, and the thought of banning men from a certain part of campus in my mind only shoves the equality battle back a few years.

If women want equality we should be prepared to stand up for ourselves, not segregate ourselves from men in order to be safe. I'm all for having resources available for feminist issues, but I for one won't be using the women-only space. I don't think it's fair to exclude half of the university population, and I think the statement it makes is that women are weak and can easily be threatened in society so we need somewhere to hide.

How hypocritical is that when presented under the guise of equality?

HALEY CLEARY  
Grad Studies I

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to [managing@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:managing@gateway.ualberta.ca).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

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## Fighting the war on something since 1910.

Look at that guy there. He's our EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, and he has a REALLY BIG MISSILE, which, for once, isn't sexual innuendo. Anyway, he'll use it, too, if you don't volunteer; Iraq didn't want to come have some fun, and just look at what happened over there.

Grrrrrrrrrr.

Ka-boom!

Pow!



**THE GATEWAY**



# Albertans need to improve their driving 'skills'



CHRIS  
ANDRÉ

Canadian average. I'm not surprised. It doesn't take a lot of driving around Edmonton to realize that there are tons of people around here who shouldn't be operating a motor vehicle. Whether I'm making a trip to the city from my comfortable little suburb, or just making a quick run for groceries, I see bad drivers everywhere.

Now, I'm not using the term "bad driver" loosely. I'm not talking about someone who speeds too much, or someone who occasionally forgets to signal a lane change. That doesn't bother me. Hell, I speed entirely too much and I know how that affects my safety. Nope, I'm talking about people who can't seem to grasp the fundamentals of operating a motor vehicle—people who are just incredibly unsafe and completely oblivious to what is happening on the road.

Don't know what I'm talking about? How's about those people who think that the bright yellow "merge" signs are actually just variations on the more popular red "stop" signs? Or people who don't feel the need to make use those handy



advance turn arrows at busy intersections? Or the guys who drive around in their old Dodge Super Bees, smashing into old ladies' ancient mobiles at stop lights because they're just too damned stupid to realize that they have to wait

for the car in front of them to move before they can? I'm gonna stop now before I give myself an ulcer, but you get the idea. How are these people still alive? And how are they still allowed to drive?

It baffles me to think that these people actually passed a driver's test. You know, if I had my way, we'd just round up all these buffoons and make them drive on a closed track and let nature run its course. But that's just not gonna happen, so I think that these people need to be evaluated and re-educated. Graduated licensing has appeared in Alberta, and that's a good thing, but I don't think it is enough. Driver's education should be made mandatory. Driving instructors should be hard-ass jerks, not like my idiot of an instructor. "Remember to look where you're turning, Chris." Thanks a lot, Captain Obvious. We need instructors who can

actually teach the kids useful skills; otherwise any parent could just show their kid how to drive.

We can't stop there though. The road test itself needs to be more difficult. As it stands, a monkey could pass the test. Turn left, go straight, slow down for the school zone, parallel park, here's your license. What a joke! Gee, I wonder why some people can't drive properly? The road test should consist of at least an hour of driving, encompassing as many common situations as possible. If you screw up, you take the test again. After that, license holders should be re-evaluated every five years or so to keep drivers sharp.

I'll be the first to admit that I'm not a perfect driver, but at least I'm aware of what's going on around me. I can't say the same for many other drivers. People, if you can't drive, get off the road and into a freakin' classroom.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS: LEANNE BROWN AND KATIE TWEEDIE

## SU By-election Winners

### Arts SU Councilor

(Elected) Vivek Sharma (58.6%)

### Engineering SU Councilor

(Elected) James Crossman/Nicholas Tam (90%)

### Nursing SU Councilor

(Elected) Jean Abbott (100%)

### Arts GFC Councilor

(Elected) Mustafa Hirji (84.9%)

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(Elected) Hussein Pirani (89.5%)

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# Clarkson's junket gave the world a much-needed taste of Canada



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A million dollars will buy a lot of pork chop sandwiches. And judging by the current state of reality TV, there's no amount of integrity or dignity that most people wouldn't trade for the cool seven-figure prize.

In the grand scheme of grand schemes, though, a million really isn't all that much money, and those who've been criticizing the Governor General for her current million-dollar circum-polar tour are either missing the big picture or desperately grasping for a scandal to tarnish the legacy of Adrienne Clarkson and the Liberal government that appointed her.

Sure, the relevance of the monarchy has been called into question more than once in the past couple of years, even by John Manley during the Queen's Golden Jubilee tour last year. She and the Governor General are essentially figureheads who probably don't really do all that much, but until we decide we're no longer a monarchy, Adrienne Clarkson is, for all intents and purposes, our head of state.

She also happens to be a strong, fluently bilingual woman and a member of a visible minority, and she's taking with her on her tour of Russia, Finland and Iceland an entourage of Canada's top artistic, scientific and political

influences, including award-winning authors Michael Ondaatje and Yann Martel.

It's not unusual for heads of state to blow exorbitant amounts of taxpayer dollars on lavish trips to war-monger or plot the destruction of our environment. For a million dollars—that's less than four pennies per Canadian—Clarkson is sharing with other nations the breadth of our creative and scientific prowess. Is this not the face of Canada we want people to see? Maybe with this excursion, we can finally start forging for ourselves a real national identity, not one based solely on Mounties and maple syrup, or how different we are from Americans.

I'm not against the Commons committee investigation into Clarkson's budget—transparency in government should always be encouraged—but the petitions and calls for her resignation are premature and frivolous, and public overreaction to the term "taxpayer dollars" can ultimately lead to an unjustified witch hunt.

Just to put it all into perspective, Clarkson's junket is costing a thousandth of what is projected to be spent on the gun registry, legislation that has all but failed to garner cooperation from the gun crazies. One million dollars is also a third of the federal government's share to bring the Rolling Stones to play SARStock, a concert benefiting only an isolated region of the country.

There may be better ways to spend a million taxpayer dollars. A million bucks could probably buy, well, a lot of pork chop sandwiches. It could contribute a drop in the bucket to the \$460 million to help farmers recover from the BSE scandal, or build six or seven houses for those who lost their homes and livelihoods in this summer's forest fires. I, however, am perfectly content to contribute my four pennies to a state visit dealing with issues including native rights and the preservation of our Arctic landscape—one that Russian president Vladimir Putin has already dubbed a "landmark event."

## Dave Alexander's TOP TEN Elements not found on the Periodic Table

- 10 Scrotium
- 9 Pekinese
- 8 X-treme Boron
- 7 Lithuania
- 6 The Element of Surprise
- 5 Freddie Mercury
- 4 I Can't Believe It's Not Tungsten
- 3 Gymnasium
- 2 Zaxxon
- 1 Bling

# Get bent, Toto, and make way for Brain



ADAM  
ROZENHART

I've known many life-saving pets in my time. I was once dragged from the edge of a cliff by a brave terrier. Sure, I'd been teasing him with a milkbone, and he, being a rather snooty sort of terrier, suggested I take a flying leap of a cliff. He was baring his teeth, and so I, being a rather submissive sort, started backing away from him.

That's when I fell. He saved my life, the little scamp. And he was handsomely rewarded for it, milkbone-style.

Did I mention I was standing at the edge of a cliff?

Despite the meandering words found in the above paragraphs, there is indeed a point to my delightful little anecdote: Toto, whom you might recall from a little-known movie called *The Wizard of Oz*, was a complete and total dipshit.

It wasn't just that he hung out with the witless Dorothy and her irritable brood of dorktards; it was more that he was fully and completely useless. He wasn't a foil against which Dorothy could verbally spar, and his scant ideas on getting back to Kansas were ridiculously half-baked. Why was Toto even written into the story except to occasionally bark at the obviously evil monsters Dorothy met on her mushroom-induced romp through Oz?

But where Toto failed to provide the masses with a reputable, reliable, and believable sidekick, Brain provided not only a safety net for Inspector Gadget's shortcomings, but a certain comic panache as well. Sure, Brain had the conveniences of a technologically-advanced dog collar to help guide him, and no doubt Penny's constant interjection provided the intrepid hound with some idea as to how Inspector Gadget should be protected.

However, Brain was what I like to call an "ideas dog." Sure, Penny would brief him on his mission, but he was left to his own devices as to how said mission should be fulfilled. Did he ever fail in his duties, I ask you? Absolutely not. Never once was the good Inspector handed over to the waiting pincers of Dr Claw.

Sadly, this sort of animal companion has gone the way of the Dodo. Sure, there have been attempts to revive the role of animal sidekicks. One such horrid experiment in mediocrity starred a certain shark hunter onboard a boat called *SeaQuest*. His sidekick was a wise-ass dolphin whose believability was nonexistent. I mean, I can believe a semi-literate dog with a Borg-like collar helping a clutzy police inspector, but a dolphin doing a lousy impression of Peewee Herman pushes the bounds of believability. Dolphins aren't really even that smart. Are they?

We need more believable and more heroic pets, both on television and film, and in real life. Without them, no one will be saved from the clutches of evil, and we'll all fall, lemming-like, from the precipices of our own stupidity.

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# Church is boring, so I guess I'm going to hell



SARAH  
HANASYK

I think deep down, behind the façade of sweetness fueled by offerings of cookies and tooth-chippingly hard candy, my grandma secretly believes I'm going to hell. Oh, she'd never come right out and say it to my face, but every time the topic of our religion comes up, I can see in her eyes how she's silently praying for my repeatedly damnable soul. Of course, this pursing of the eyebrows could also be some sort of medication-induced seizure, but she'd be too polite to let me know if it was.

Since 1997, to her chagrin, my Sunday morning church attendance has been usurped both by delicious sleep and a rare hangover-induced relationship with my toilet; she'd therefore be proud to know that I do continue to pray to God occasionally.

I was raised Lutheran. Growing up, I went to church regularly, and went through two years of confirmation studies at the cusp of my adolescence. I even taught four- and five-year-olds how it's bad to eat their homemade clay Jesus figures when I instructed at Sunday school for a year. But despite this substantial indoctrination in my youth, I soon began questioning teachings I had blindly accepted as fact, and I became more vocal about my ebbing faith. And part of what instigated this reformation revolved around the

"I was raised Lutheran. Growing up, I went to church regularly, and went through two years of confirmation studies at the cusp of my adolescence. I even taught four- and five-year-olds how it's bad to eat their homemade clay Jesus figures when I instructed at Sunday school for a year."

growing controversy at my church.

I think of it like in *Full House*, when those twins were born. Remember how suddenly it wasn't as cute anymore when little Michelle said "you got it, dude"? You just wanted Kimmy Gibbler to smack her upside the head a few times, right? Well, Michelle represents the older, conservative congregation, which includes my grandma, and the twins represent the new, vibrant, young families with liberal ideas.

But just like Kimmy, the situation got ugly.

What I witnessed in the elder congregation was a hypocritical intolerance of the changing realm of religious edification suggested by the new families who weren't interested in being told God's top ten reasons why they were going to burn in hell every week. They were, as was I, interested in reforming such archaic, structured practices, and replacing them with discussion, informality, and, the most controversial issue: fun.

I don't believe rote recitation lets one really understand faith as well as educated skepticism and discussion. I didn't believe everything that I was taught; I even rejected some of it. Yet I adopted the essential elements that I believed negated any claim of being merely agnostic. But I did stop going.

Now, six years later, I still proclaim to have as much faith as the self-righteous peers with whom I once missed *Muppet Babies* to stare longingly at the clock every Sunday morning. I never believed that those who weren't Christian were to be condemned, or that the Bible, which is written by humans, is free from flaw, or that every time you masturbate, an angel bursts into flames. God is inherently inscrutable. No one knows they are correct about how to be "suitably" religious. No one even knows God really exists. We rely on our faith, which is instilled in us at an early age. We adopt a trusting acceptance, and practice as we feel best describes our values pertaining to the doctrine.

Merely attending church service is meaningless if it becomes a chore. Perhaps these days I have become lazy about my faith. However, I am not solely to blame for this attitude. Maybe if more conservative congregation members realized that with our culture's changing environment and ethics, it is allowable that there be the possibility of revision in holy practice as well. If there were I'd still be there.

I realize church doesn't need to be all explosions and fireworks every week, but it could certainly do with a couple of sparks.

## Standardized currency is the ticket to riches, success, and not sucking



MARK N  
BARKER

"Yeah I said it, democracy is dumb, and I'll stand by that statement as long as it is repeatedly proven by stupefyingly ignorant popular opinions. Do you want to know why five per cent of the world population controls 95 per cent of the wealth? Because 95 per cent of the world population is too stupid to hold on to its green."

To the nation of Sweden: What the hell is your problem?

Given the opportunity to jump on board with the rest of the European Union and adopt a standardized currency that can be stably and easily used across the continent, the nation of Sweden got behind the UK in saying "nuts to that." Not that I can completely blame the 56 per cent of the populous who voted against adopting the Euro—a standard in all but three countries of the European Union (including Sweden). It was the tax-happy government who thought a referendum on the issue would be a good idea, forgetting that any group of people larger than five is intrinsically stupid and shouldn't be left to make any sort of major socio-economic decision.

Yeah I said it, democracy is dumb, and I'll stand by that statement as long as it is repeatedly proven by stupefyingly ignorant popular opinions. Do you want to know why five per cent of the world population controls 95 per cent of the wealth? Because 95 per cent of the world population is too stupid to hold on to its green.

But this is about the Euro and why

Sweden in particular has incurred my wrath. I flat out disagree with the Swedish decision not to use the Euro because this particular decision was made for all the wrong reasons: namely, patriotism. In adopting the Euro, a primary part of the anti-Euro voters thought they'd be giving away something that clearly defines Sweden as a nation.

"But, Mark," I can hear a number of you saying, "pride in your homeland is a good thing. You're patriotic about Canada, aren't you?"

To which I would retort, "Of course."

But I think a standard North American currency should be adopted so that when I buy a software package from the US that costs \$220 I'm not paying \$300 on Thursday and \$286 next Monday. It would simplify trade, make trips across the border easier, and save us money in currency exchange on top of a plethora of other benefits. If you want to be patriotic, go down to the border, sing the national anthem and then play one of those Molson "I Am" commercials on a portable TV.

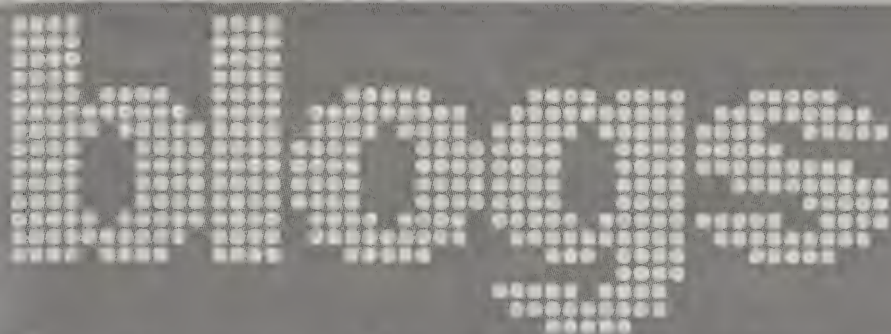
Realistically, the only reason bor-

ders exist in the industrialized world anymore is to feed that sense of national identity. Outside of that context they represent little more than a mindless excuse to increase bureaucracy. The fact is Canada has never been given the option of adopting a continental currency (much to my chagrin); Sweden has (you dumb, dumb country).

And while arguments of needing and wanting to have more control of their own economy, setting their own interest rates, and purchasing foreign currency to influence their dollar value are all be bandied about, in the end, most of the people still voted against the Euro because they're Swedes and they won't hear nothin' about being nothin' else—which is so grossly uninformed it's pathetic.

In the end, Sweden will only be forced to adopt the Euro, and they'll look even more foolish than they do now. The decision not to adopt the Euro has already changed Sweden's influence in the European Union and on the world stage negatively. I only hope when Canada's turn rolls around we don't similarly screw ourselves over.





## The democratization of information

words: leah collins

photo: shawn benbow

It's believed that blogs, or "web logs," were pioneered way back in 1994, when a young fellow named Justin Hall began sharing his adventures in sex and drugs wonderland by through a web diary called "Links from the Underground." And, in Mr Hall's solipsistic footsteps, blogs ever after have typically taken the form of personal websites, created and maintained by regularly posting individuals. On a (usually) daily basis, a blogger will post blog entries: compilations of links to other websites of interest, information, personal details, and opinions. But though blogs are of an individual nature, allowing any particular poster the freedom to publish thoughts on anything from their pet kitten, Snuffles, to the death of Edward Said, they are not limited to merely being inane digital diaries.

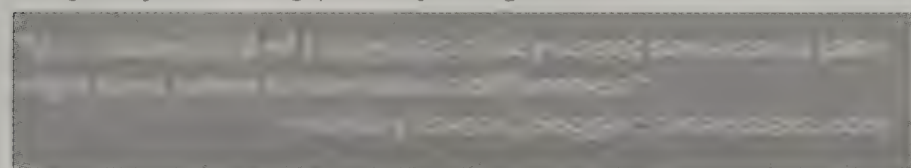
Dr Gary Kelly, a University of Alberta English professor who teaches classes on popular culture, is quick in pointing this out: "it is a common misconception that blogs are nothing but the meanderings of distressed and self-obsessed youths lucky enough to have net access. There are many kinds of blogs."

There may be as many kinds of blogs as there are genres of printed writing. But what they all have in common with Hall's "Links from the Underground" and the self-centered like, is how they all differ from print writing: they offer complete freedom and immediacy of publication for both the blog writer and the blog reader (who is encouraged to respond to entries). Anything can be shared by anyone, from the latest news on Iraq to haiku on the grilled cheese you ate for lunch, without the delay of an editorial and printing process.

It's a kind of sharing that Dr Kelly traces back to many pre-electronic forms. "For centuries," he explains, "individuals kept 'commonplace books' in which they copied down things from books that had special significance for them, as well as their own reflections of experience, feelings, life. Later, people kept albums (literally, white or blank books) in which friends, visitors, acquaintances were asked to write comments, poems, wise words, etc. Albums served as a social circulation of shared values and literary culture; bloggers who open their blogs to comments and contributions are continuing this tradition, too."

Albums and scrapbooks of the old-timey variety are still regularly crafted, but says Gord Bird, creator of blog "Malicious Intent," putting together a collection of personal thoughts and photos in blog form is just plain easier. As he explains, "I'm far better versed at the computer than in any physical medium." Not only that, but a blog is able to reach people he wouldn't typically be able to share a photo album with. "Because my largest group of friends lives back in Ontario, if they want to find out what I've been up to recently, [a blog] is an easy place for them to point and click and learn at their leisure, instead of me having to track them down, and force feed them my photo album."

Says Bird, his blog's intended audience pretty much ends with his circle of family and friends. And as for reading blogs, he doesn't find the prospect of reading Colonel Painfully Average's daily online musings particularly enticing.



Elizabeth Osder, a professor at the University of Southern California's School of Journalism was quoted on wired.com as having a similar complaint with reading online journals. "Bloggers," she said, "are about as interesting as friends who make you look at their scrapbooks. There's an over-fascination with self-expression, with opinion. This is opinion without expertise, without resources, without reporting."

Though Osder's damning opinion could be disputed when held up to examples of "good" blogs such as Ali Davis' "True Porn Clerk Stories," (a wittily and captivatingly written blog, despite what Osder might see as an "over-fascination with self-expression") or seminal bloggers Andrew Sullivan and Mickey Kaus, (Op-Ed journalists now writing in the blog form), she still poses the question of the legitimacy of the form, and what makes it compelling.

For Dr Kelly, the relationship of blogs and self-expression is not only what makes the form popular, but relevant. "Modern society promotes individuality and individualism. Modern art and culture—particularly 'high' art and culture, celebrate certain kinds of subjectivity—the 'interesting' person, the 'beautiful soul.' Is it surprising that young people (lots of old ones, too) feel a compulsion to bare their 'interesting' and/or 'beautiful' souls to the world? Personal blogging can be seen as a form of a very widespread practice of autobiographical writing of various kinds—let's call this auto-blogging. What's the difference between Leonard Cohen's songs and a typical auto-blog? Whatever those differences are, both can be seen as manifestations of modern individualism."

But do such brash "manifestations of modern individualism" have a place in journalism? Kelly mentions that "some blogs can be seen as an alternative news and opinion source, of professional standard, in an age of increasing corporatization and political servility of news and information." It's that promise of complete freedom of the press that seems to appeal to print journalist-turned-blogger, Andrew Sullivan. In his "Blogger Manifesto" (found at andrewsullivan.com), he praises the blog for being what he calls "the nascent Napster of the journalism industry ... direct peer-to-peer journalism." For Sullivan, the blog allows writers to write directly to their audience without having to be filtered through the wishes of editors, publishers, patrons, etc., thus increasing the amount of "permissible opinions." But while the freedom of blogging may allow alternative voices to be published

blogs. They're multiplying at a frightening rate. According to www.wired.com, approximately 1500-2000 new blogs emerge every day on blogger.com (one of many blogging websites). Reading their blogginess, all over that thing we call the Internet like some spooky gelatinous meat, to earth, to devour human and puppy. ... everyone from teenage girls, homeless library-obsessed gateway editors, and even Star Trek's Wil Wheaton joining its rampage of real-time editorializing, seems nothing can stop the awesome power of blogg-



and read, the lack of an editor causes more problems than a few missed typos: total freedom leaves blogs without accountability.

For your average blogger who's just linking to Google news items and pictures of kittens, accountability isn't of particular concern, but it is a problem for bloggers that work for newspapers. As journalists are depended on by the public to present an objective point of view, the subjective format of a blog can threaten their own, and their publication's, journalistic credibility. The 30 September edition of the *New York Times* ran an article bringing this issue to attention with the story of *Sacramento Bee* columnist Daniel Weintraub. As well as writing for the newspaper, Weintraub was a regular poster to the paper's blog, the "California Insider." Though the blog had been unmoderated since its beginnings in April, the paper decided that Weintraub's posts will now go through an editor before they are published on the Internet. Though Weintraub himself has expressed no objection to his blog being edited, bloggers such as Mickey Kause find the *Bee's* decision an affront to the definition of blogging. As written on slate.msn.com in his 21 September entry, Kause responds to the Weintraub situation saying, "the whole point of blogging's that you get someone's take *right now*, when it can make a difference. As long as nobody's libeled, why not publish analyses without an editor's review? If an editor (or a reader, or another blogger) comes back with a good objection, Weintraub can get another item out of it! ... If Weintraub's too much of an anti-liberal blogger, add a liberal blogger!"

Bloggers like Kause seem to be arguing for blogs as a new kind of journalism. A blog writer may not spend time doing investigative research to back up his views, but he is nevertheless an influential purveyor of information, usually through the process of linking. Connecting blogs to news stories, pictures, funny websites, other blogs, links make blogs conduits of information. And as search engines such as Google determine the relevance of search results based on the number of links a page has to other pages, in effect, blogs also manage what information we are able to find on the web. Ultimately, bloggers act as an editorial board to the Internet, deciding the order of the day's top stories. (This phenomenon is even followed on websites such as blogdex.net and daypop.net, with lists of the day's hot links and topics.)

But the blog can not function completely outside of the mainstream media; it depends on traditional news sources for topics to editorialize on and link to. If anything, the blog operates in a dialogue with the mainstream world. Just as readers might comment on a blogger's posts, adding to the background and depth of a story through a dynamic relationship with the publication, the blog comments on the media, feeding off of it as well as providing information and angles to mainstream writers.

Without this dynamic, blogs would perhaps be the vain exercises some see them to be. Though the openness of blogs may seem sloppy to some and simply self-serving to others, the discussion and participation they invite is a democratization of information.

## LINKS

the primary results  
blogs you should read

[www.taintedthoughts.com](http://www.taintedthoughts.com)  
[www.sarahhepola.com](http://www.sarahhepola.com)  
[www.littleyellowdifferent.com](http://www.littleyellowdifferent.com)  
[www.weirdsmobile.com](http://www.weirdsmobile.com)  
[www.pinkmoose.blogspot.com](http://www.pinkmoose.blogspot.com)  
(true porn clerk stories):  
[www.improvisation.ws/mb/tpcs.html](http://www.improvisation.ws/mb/tpcs.html)  
[www.gateway.ualberta.ca/heatherfolder/static/](http://www.gateway.ualberta.ca/heatherfolder/static/)

what's all this  
blogging about?

[www.blogdex.net](http://www.blogdex.net)  
[www.daypop.com](http://www.daypop.com)  
(rank the most linked websites in bloggerdom)



## SPORTS IN BRIEF

## Field Hockey

The **Pandas** (1-2-1) host the entire five-team Canada West conference in a tournament this weekend at Foote Field. Arriving for the tournament are the UBC Thunderbirds (4-0), Victoria Vikes (2-1-1), Manitoba Bisons (0-4), and the Calgary Dinos (2-2). This is the second Canada West tournament of the season, with each team playing three games. The Pandas begin Friday at 4pm against the Vikes, and then play two games on Saturday: UBC at 9am, and Manitoba at 1pm. They close out the tournament on Sunday playing against Calgary at 11am.

## Hockey

The **Golden Bears** host the annual Brick Invitational hockey tournament at Clare Drake arena this weekend against division rivals the Calgary Dinos and the Saskatchewan Huskies. The triumvirate finished in the top three placings of the 2002 Canada West standings. The tournament begins Friday night at 7:30pm with the Bears taking on the Huskies. The Bears close out the weekend against the Dinos on Sunday at 2pm.

The **Pandas** play two more exhibition games this weekend against the Edmonton Chimos of the National Women's Hockey League (NWHL) at Southside Arena (72 Ave & 105 St). The first game is on Saturday at 8pm, and the second is on Sunday at 3:15pm.

## Soccer

The **Golden Bears** (5-1) travel south to play a two game road trip against the Calgary Dinos (3-3), and the Lethbridge Pronghorns (0-6). Each of the opponents were beaten by the Bears in September at Foote Field, as the Bears kept both teams off the scoreboard. The Bears play Calgary on Saturday, and follow up with Lethbridge on Sunday.

The **Pandas** (5-1-1) will also travel south this weekend to Calgary (2-3-1) to play the Dinos, and to Lethbridge (1-5-2) to play the Pronghorns. In their first meetings, the Pandas defeated the Dinos 3-1, and shut out the Pronghorns 1-0.

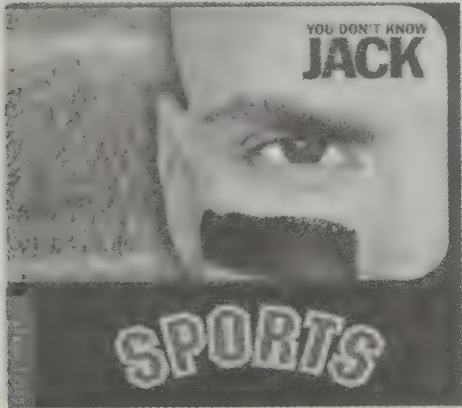
## Volleyball

The **Pandas** will get their chance to take on the Team Canada Masters in an exhibition match this Friday in the Main Gym at 6pm. Prepping for the upcoming Canada West season, the team will also get three more exhibitions in, playing the Pandas Alumni team on Saturday evening at 5pm, and then taking on the University of Ottawa Gee Gees on Sunday at 6pm in the Main Gym, and again on Monday at 6pm at McNally High School (84 St. & 106 Ave).

The Golden Bears will meet the Saskatchewan Huskies halfway with two matches in Lloydminster on Friday and Saturday.

## Trivia Contest

What was name of the character in *Major League II* whose "shimmy" made all the girls in Cleveland sick? Submit your answer to sports@gateway.ualberta.ca. The first correct answer wins a copy of Jellyvision's 1996 release of *You Don't Know Jack: Sports*.



## Pandas host field hockey tournament

## Five-team weekend tourney to take place at Foote Field

ANDY RANDHAWA  
Sports Staff

Do you ever wonder why the fit-looking girl who sits beside you in English misses class every other Friday? Maybe she's a superhero. Perhaps she's an on-call emergency room doctor. Or maybe, just maybe, she's a member of the Pandas field hockey team.

Although the latter explanation may be the last to pop into your mind, it's more likely than you think. Contrary to popular belief, the University of Alberta does have a field hockey team, although you wouldn't know it on campus.

Lack of recognition has plagued the Pandas for years. "Even when we were winning, we were still a low profile sport, and now we're in a rebuilding phase," said fifth-year veteran and team captain Tia Thomson. The Pandas are currently ranked seventh in the nation with a 1-2-1 record, including a scoreless draw against last year's national champions from the University of Victoria Vikes. "That was a big confidence booster, [and it showed] we can play with the big dogs," said a satisfied Thomson.

One of the few times you'll be able to see the Pandas at home this year will be this weekend as the second Canada West tournament of the season arrives at Foote Field. The Pandas are looking to improve upon their fourth-place Canada West ranking, as only the top two teams in the conference secure a place in the national tournament.

This jump in the standings isn't out of reach to head coach Carla Somerville. "The three teams fighting between second through fourth are all very close. Beating Calgary or U Vic will put us in a situation where we can move into second place in the conference."

The Pandas will open the tournament against the U of Vic Vikes Friday afternoon at 4pm. The tournament continues Saturday with the Pandas



FILE PHOTO: KATIE TWEEDIE

**TIME TO FACEOFF** Pandas field hockey team takes over Foote Field for this weekend's tournament.

taking on number-one ranked UBC Thunderbirds at 9am, and then play immediately after the Manitoba Bisons at 1pm.

The tournament wraps up on Sunday as the Pandas take on their provincial rivals from Calgary at 11am, for what promises to be a hard-fought game. "We don't like to lose to Calgary. The games against Calgary are fast, rough, and they're fun to watch. You know you're going to be in a battle with Calgary," said Somerville.

This year's crop of Pandas field hockey players is younger than most, but what they lack in experience they look to make up for in determination and zeal. "We are absolutely passion-

ate about what we do... we're a small sport and we'll continue to fight for as much recognition we can," said Somerville on the lack of fan support.

Thomson echoed her statements, and joked about a plan for how to raise the team's profile. "We'd like people to come out, so we entice them with the fact that we wear skirts to play."

Despite the kidding about the attire's appeal, this upcoming weekend's tournament probably won't propel field hockey to the level of popularity of football or ice hockey, but that won't stop the Pandas from playing as though everyone were watching.

## Brick Invitational hockey tournament this weekend

JOEL CHURY  
Sports Editor

Only the best need apply at this year's Golden Bears Brick Invitational hockey tournament, as the event has been pared down to only include the top three teams from the Canada West conference last year, instead of previous tournaments that hosted six teams. Joining the first-place Bears will be the University of Saskatchewan Huskies and the University of Calgary Dinos, who finished second and third respectively.

Missing from the tournament this year will be the Lethbridge Pronghorns, the NAIF Oaks, and the UBC Thunderbirds, who are travelling to Denver to take on the US Airforce hockey team in an exhibition matchup.

The Huskies will likely offer a great competitive warm-up for the Bears upcoming season. "Saskatchewan has an experienced team that's big strong and physical," said Bears head coach Rob Daum. "There as good as any other team in the country."

Also providing some stiff competition will be the vastly improved Calgary Dinos. "Calgary has done an excellent job in recruiting. I think they've got more depth than they've ever had over the last number of years," added Daum.

Five players with Western Hockey League experience are joining the Dinos roster this year, including Forward Richard Mueller of the Calgary Hitmen, former Red Deer Rebel Ryan Layden, and former Tri-City American Colin McRae. Also added to the Dinos roster are former Brandon Wheat King defenceman Brett Thurston, and Boston Bruin draft pick/former Regina Pat goaltender Donald Choukalos.

The Bears came close to adding another NHL draft pick goaltender to the roster this year,

but Vancouver Canucks draft choice and former Brandon Wheat King goaltender Rob McVicar signed with the Canucks before the Bears schedule began. The Bears will have the services of last year's goaltending tandem of Clayton Pool and Dustin Schwartz between the pipes, who traditionally split the starting duties and will each get a start in this weekend's tournament.

The Bears have also added three rookies with WHL experience to their roster. Former Spokane Chiefs left winger Tim Krymusa has five points in four exhibition games so far, and also adding offense is former Medicine Hat forward Ben Thomson, who scored 40 goals in the WHL last year and has potted five goals so far in exhibition play.

The exhibition tournament gives the Bears coaching staff another chance to assess the team before the season begins. "We're trying to assess everything," said Daum. "How we play from a team perspective, and also where the roles will be for personnel on the team. It's a constant evaluation process at this time of the year where [the coaches] try to pick the team, and also to determine which roles each of the players will have on it."

The tournament runs from 3-5 October, with each team playing two games apiece. The Bears will begin the tournament against Saskatchewan on Friday night at 7:30pm at Clare Drake arena. They return to play the Dinos on Sunday at 2pm.



FILE PHOTO: JAKE EDENLOFF

**DROP THE PUCK** Forward Tyler Shybunka and his fellow Bears play three games this weekend.



# Don't hate the player, or the game

US poll discovers violent sports (and soccer) are the most hated



JAKE TROUGHTON  
  
Sports Commentary

Americans may flock to violence in their television, movies and music, but when it comes to sports they are apparently more restrained. A recent poll conducted by the Atlanta-based Sports Marketing Group for cnn.com asked fans which sports they loved and hated. The results suggested that violent sports are among the most hated in the country. But while too much violence is unacceptable, some violence is still necessary, it seems—peaceful pastimes fare little better.

By a wide margin, dogfighting is America's most hated sport, while bullfighting comes in at number three out of the ten specifically listed. Surely people appreciate the *uplifting* spirit of competition and fair play engendered by these events, but this is evidently outweighed by their desire not to watch animals torn to bits. Human violence also turns audiences away in droves, even if it's not real. Pro wrestling is the second most hated sport and boxing the fourth, despite both being equally as fake.

There is an obvious theme linking these first few entries: blood as a major highlight turns many people away. It should come as no surprise then, that the next sport on the list is golf.

Yes, that's right: golf. The major American golf tours (PGA, Champions and LPGA) respectively take the next

three slots on the list. Perhaps people sympathize with the helpless little balls, and cringe every time they are brutally and heartlessly assaulted by the oppressive golfers. Similar concerns may explain why NASCAR (those poor tires!), Major League Soccer and men's tennis round out the top ten.

However, while this is certainly the most charitable explanation for the poll results, it may not be the most likely. Likelier is that, rather than being compassionate individuals, the roughly 27–30 per cent who claim to despise each of these sports are in fact hateful, bitter people who heap scorn on anything that they personally don't understand or enjoy.

**Aside from those few who have had traumatic soccer experiences, it must take an unhealthy hostile soul to actively hate the game.**

It is certainly no moral flaw if someone finds soccer boring, though it may well be an intellectual flaw. But even if you don't enjoy it, it is difficult to see what exactly you might hate about it. The inherent cruelty of dogfighting is clearly enough to inspire hatred in many people, and rightfully so. Likewise, it is perfectly understandable if the frequent chairshots and monkey-written "storylines" of pro wrestling inspire mass hatred (in fact, an upcoming match between Vince

and his daughter Stephanie McMahon is surely enough to stir invective from even the biggest fan).

But soccer? What is there about the sport that could possibly offend anyone so much that they would declare, not merely that they do not especially like it, but that they, in fact, hate it? A person encountering bullfighting might reasonably be upset for some time afterward, but if someone does not appreciate the grace of the Beautiful Game, surely they can just change the channel and move on. Aside from those few who have had traumatic childhood soccer experiences, it must take an unhealthy hostile soul to actively hate the game.

The most popular sport, football, features frequent but controlled violence. Clearly this middle ground is the key to popular acceptance in America. Perhaps NASCAR, instead of fining and suspending driver Jimmy Spencer for punching rival Kurt Busch after a race, should have put them in pads and had them run into each other for a few hours.

The introduction of body checking may be enough to lift tennis to the next level of popularity. And surely golf would be more interesting if the participants had to worry about having their shots blocked by their opponents.

Maybe, though, there's nothing wrong with the games. Maybe there's something wrong with the people who were polled. Whatever their various merits, many sports fans are clearly unexcited by each of these sports. It is unfortunate that this is enough reason for nearly a third of America to hate them.

# Top ten sports-movie villains

... and no, Bob Barker didn't make the cut

JOEL CHURY  
Sports Editor

What would the sporting world be without its villains? Booing Dallas Stars netminder Marty Turco during the playoffs is second nature for Oiler fans, as will be jeering Oilers holdout Mike Comrie after his inevitable departure from Perogytown. So to take our minds off of the inevitable gap that will be left on the Oilers' top line, here is a top ten list of some famous villains from sports movies:

**10. ERNIE MCCRACKEN, KINGPIN (1996)** Bill Murray's devious "Big Ern," character is a professional bowler and pathetic lecher who ruins Roy Munson's (Woody Harrelson) life, sports a mean combover, and rolls a clear acrylic bowling ball with a rose in the middle. If you need any more reason to hate him, I just don't have it.

**9. TEAM ICELAND, D2: THE MIGHTY DUCKS (1994)** Plays Team USA in the Junior Goodwill Games. Such a good development system, but that country just can't cut it at the top level: I wonder why?

**8. EAST GERMAN BOBSLEDDERS, COOL RUNNINGS (1993)** "Go back to where you came from, Jamaica" ... man, that's evil. Leave John Candy's ragtag group of overachieving rastafarians alone, you Kaiser-loving jerks.

**7. GOPHER, CADDYSHACK (1980)** Tears up golf courses, steals flags from greens, drives greenskeeper Bill Murray to blowing up the entire golf course, and dances to Kenny Loggins. If you can think of a more badass rodent than that, buddy, I don't want to hear it. No, seriously. Shut up.

**6. IVAN DRAGO, ROCKY IV (1985)** One of the best cold-war villains of all

time, Josef Stalin excluded. Dolph Lundgren's Drago character does steroids and beats poor Apollo Creed to death. And on top of all that, he's a Soviet. A Soviet!

**5. MONSTARS, SPACE JAM (1996)** They exposed the shortage of talent in the post-Jordan NBA era by resorting to zapping the talent from such stars like Muggsy Bogues and Shawn Bradley, and put together a bad-ass hip-hop song with voices that sounded strangely like rappers Busta Rhymes and Cypress Hill.

**4. SHOOTER MCGAVIN, HAPPY GILMORE (1996)** Makes out with Happy's grandmother and girlfriend during a bad dream sequence, tries to get Happy thrown off the tour, steals Happy's golden jacket, and eats shit for breakfast. Shooter!

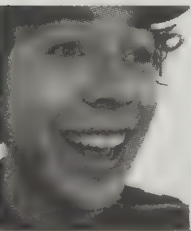
**3. ZEUS, NO HOLDS BARRED (1989)** Wouldn't have made the list, if it wasn't for his succession from losing to Hulk Hogan in NHB, to becoming the President of Earth in *The Fifth Element*.

**2. OGIE OGILTHORPE, SLAP SHOT (1977)** This afro-sporting goon for the Syracuse Bulldogs doesn't even have any lines in the film. He's suspended earlier in the movie, has spent time in jail, fucked the last girl of the pinwheel in the Icestravaganza, and sneers at the offer of being bought a soda after the game. And he was extradicted to Canada, only to have us refuse to take him. That's one mean motherfucker.

**1. JESUS QUINTANA, THE BIG LEBOWSKI (1998)** Accompanied by his portly bowling partner Liam O'Brien, this pederast rolled his way into the semis, and refuses to recognize the day of rest ritual of Shomer Shabos. Nobody fucks with the Jesus.

# Mike Comrie is really, really short

Holdout center prime for a good ol' fashioned joshing



JOSH KJENNER  
  
Sports Commentary

There are quite a few people who aren't exactly in my good books right now: Jean Chrétien, Gord Steinke, and my Grandma, after that fucking joke of a Christmas present she gave me last year. These are the types of people who could eat a little bit of glass without me shedding any tears.

I must say though, most of what these people have done is forgivable. I can forgive Gord for never bumpin' uglies with that vixen Lynda Steele, and I can forgive Jean for being ugly. I may even be able to forgive ol' granny for that glorified ass rag she knit me last year. There's one person, however, that may never reap the benefits of my legendary benevolence—a hyper-rich, velvet-handed man-pixie by the name Michael Q Comrie.

Let's summarize a few things real quick. Firstly, Mike Comrie is very, very short. Secondly, in his tenure here—if bonuses and hooker comps are included—he has raked in with is impish hands about US \$7 million. However, the fact that the guy could now purchase 350 000 copies of *Agent Cody Banks* at his will doesn't seem to be enough for him. Nope, Mike Comrie—like every other athlete on this Godless sphere of crapulence—wants a raise.

The Mikester has earned himself about \$114 750 per goal while with the Oil. \$114 750 per goal! The only way I'll ever get paid \$114 750 for doing *anything* is if the International Olympic Committee (IOC) makes chronic-masturbation-while-listening-to-Nine-Inch-Nails an Olympic sport, and changes the weight of a gold medal to 78 pounds. I bet at least ten of those

Comrie goals were Kelly Buchberger garbage specials too. Imagine getting paid almost two million clams for deflecting a few pucks in with your face.

Anyways, what I'm driving at here is that the Oilers been paying this clown a three-bedroom bungalow per goal for the last two-and-a-half seasons. He should show some class and sign for what the Oil are throwing at him, at least for a year. And if he can light it up like he did in his first full season he'll have a fat payday to go blow at Gap Kids this time next year.

Comrie could stand a few lessons from Lassie. Not only could she housetrain him so he stops shitting the bed at Skyreach; she might be able to teach him about an oft-forgotten value in professional sports: loyalty. I know that loyalty in professional sports these days is about as cool as getting dropped off at the Warhammer store in your mom's minivan on the hottest day of the year while wearing a leather vest and a soiled man-diaper, but Comrie has to realize a few things.

First of all, he's got family here and he'll eventually have to come back, so getting run out of town à la Jason Arnott isn't the best plan of attack. Next, though he was injured last year, lots of other NHLers do, in fact, play injured. And they typically don't resemble unusually short, Porsche-driving pylons when they do it.

Finally, Edmonton has the leverage; Comrie's experience in the league is slim enough that if he doesn't sign with E-town, he doesn't play, thanks to his restricted free agency status.

So he has two choices: he can sign with his team—the team that's made him a multi-millionaire—for a small raise and prove that he's worth more, or he can sit out, whine, play Q-Bert, and generally earn the ire of a city of 950 000 rabid hockey fans. If his choice is the former, great; I look forward to seeing him play this year. But if he chooses the latter, its safe to say that his time left here could be shorter than the length of his inseams.

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**Friday, Oct. 3**  
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**Sunday, Oct. 5**  
vs. Calgary, 2 p.m.

**Friday, Oct. 3**  
vs. Canadian Masters 6 p.m.

**Sunday, Oct. 5**  
vs. Ottawa 6 p.m.



# Hawksley Workman's quirky cabaret

Canadian songster talks about the downfall of literacy, his unexpected love for hip-hop, and the self-imposed isolation he endured during the recording of his latest album, *Lover/Fighter*

## Hawksley Workman

with Guests  
Dinwoodie Lounge  
Friday, 3 October

HEATHER ADLER  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

He's garnered notoriety for his pants held together only by safety pins, earned fame for being one of the most worldly-sounding musicians in Canada, and penned such eccentric lyrical couplets as "I'm jealous of your cigarette," "striptease for me baby," and "this anger is beauty." Meet Hawksley Workman, the quirky high-styled minstrel who hosts a plethora of poetic paradoxes neatly tucked under his flamboyant Canadian façade. From the unconventional syntax of his lyrics to his self-imposed isolation from the world, Workman has few habits that one would consider the norm.

"I think that lyrics have been so dumbed down on the radio so much in the last 15 years that people don't expect too much any more," Workman remarks from behind a slightly pre-tentious faux-British accent. "People are less literate now in general, so it's easy to write a catchy little melody and if you don't want to labour too long over the lyrics it's easy to throw a 'baby, baby, deep in my soul, baby, baby' type of lyric and get away with it."

Known for his metaphor-laden lyrical base and offbeat cabaret-style delivery, Workman has thus far avoided any "baby, baby" lyrics. "I think when you can create a lyrical message that feels like its been thought about and feels like it came from the heart, then it lasts a lot longer,"

Workman explains in regards to his more attentive lyrical nature.

Although he compares his writing and his "big, fat ego" to the likes of Joni Mitchell, Morrissey, and Leonard Cohen, Workman has also come to respect artists in what seems to be a completely surprising genre. "I think that lyrical elements are being explored in a very interesting way by people like Eminem, Nas, and Snoop Dogg," he remarks. "The general courage and originality of rap and hip-hop really appeals to me because I think the lyrics on pop-rock radio are certainly the worst that music has ever had to offer."

**"I was away from the world for a good six months and I went a little crazy, but I always go a little crazy so it was familiar territory for me."**

HAWKSLEY WORKMAN

Last year, Workman showed off some of his wordsmith talents in a book of poetry, prose, love letters, and illustrations, as well as on a Christmas CD, most of which was written in Europe while he fasted on nothing but lemon tea. Always a step ahead of simply being enigmatic, Workman then locked himself away in a self-assembled studio in Northern Ontario all winter to record his latest album, *Lover/Fighter*.

"I was away from the world for a good six

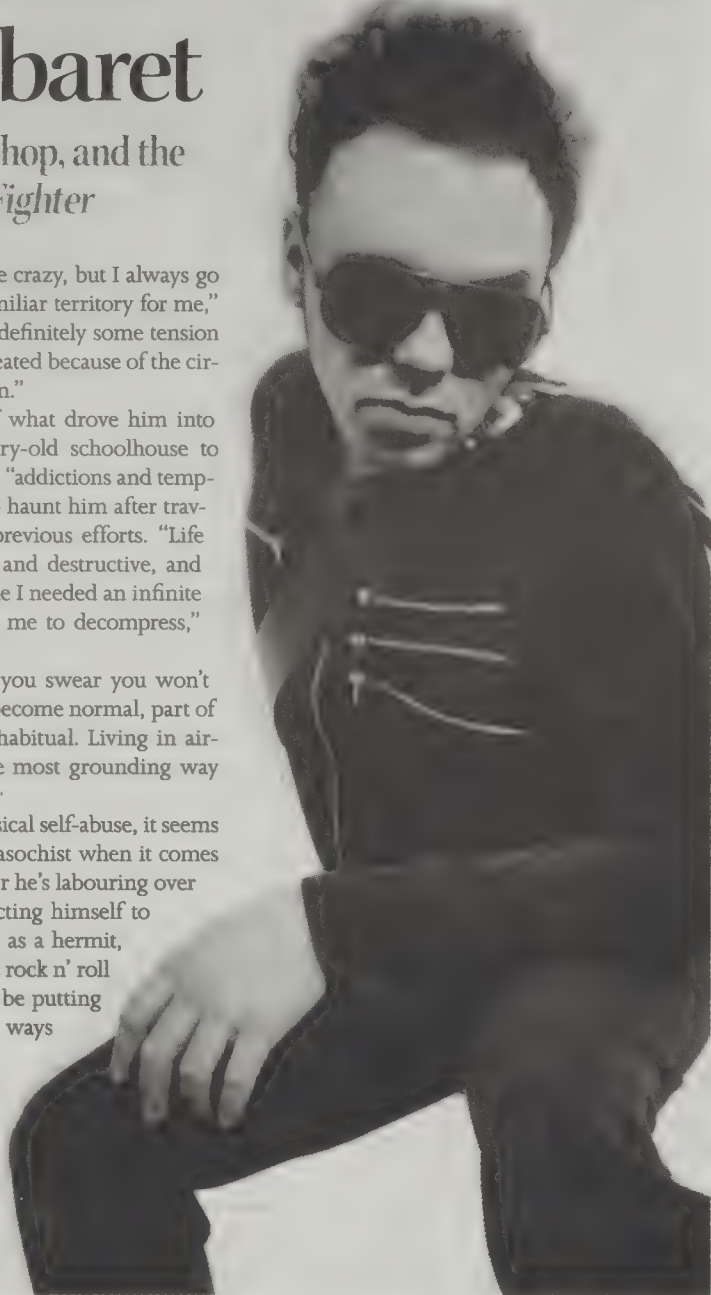
months and I went a little crazy, but I always go a little crazy so it was familiar territory for me," Workman says. "There's definitely some tension on the record that was created because of the circumstances I was living in."

Workman says part of what drove him into the isolation of a century-old schoolhouse to record the album was the "addictions and temptations" that had come to haunt him after traveling in support of his previous efforts. "Life on the road is excessive and destructive, and when I got home I felt like I needed an infinite amount of space around me to decompress," he notes.

"All these things that you swear you won't do and for some reason become normal, part of the lifestyle, and rather habitual. Living in airports and hotels isn't the most grounding way to operate."

But aside from the physical self-abuse, it seems Workman is a bit of a masochist when it comes to his art as well. Whether he's labouring over his lyrical content, subjecting himself to rap music, fasting, living as a hermit, or succumbing to various rock n' roll clichés, he says he won't be putting an end to his peculiar ways anytime soon.

"It's funny, because when I got off the road last year I thought 'fuck, I never want to go on the road again,' and within two months I was lusting for the abuse again," he concludes.



# Documentary examines holistic health, drinking mercury

Western medicine may be incomplete, cold and one-dimensional, but at least it doesn't involve bloodletting or boar's vomit

## Ayurveda: The Art of Being

Starring Dr Scott Gerson, Brahmanand Swamigal, Vaidya Narayan Murthy and Dr Nicolos Kostopoulos  
Directed by Pan Nalin  
Metro Cinema  
Sunday, 5 October

JEREMY SHRAGGE  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

After a visit to your doctor's office or the local emergency room, do you ever get the feeling that physicians really haven't the foggiest clue about treating human disease? Have you ever been misdiagnosed? Or better yet, ever had your ailment confusingly described to you in Greco-Latin gobbledygook that was obviously meant to confuse your perception of a physician's complete cluelessness? Well if so, you may be one of the millions of North Americans who have recently become devotees of alternative or holistic medicinal practices.

One of the oldest of these traditional healing systems is the subject of Indian director Pan Nalin's 2001 eponymous documentary *Ayurveda: The Art of Being*. A tedious and unfocused effort, *Ayurveda*, for far too much of its excessive length, watches like a late-night infomercial—albeit one filled with stunning photography of the Subcontinent landscape. Rather than junky juicers, ersatz Japanese steak knives, or dodgy music collections, the product that Nalin is attempting to flog is ancient Indian folk medicine.

Undoubtedly shot with an affluent (and vulnerable) Western audience

firmly in mind, Nalin and cinematographer Serge Guez criss-cross the subcontinent meeting, interviewing and documenting the methods of a diverse group of traditional healers known as Vaidyas.

Nalin's subjects—who claim to have the ability to cure the precisely 4000 diseases of the human mind and body with little more than tree bark, tubers and blind faith—are at times more reminiscent of Steve Martin's legendary Saturday Night Live character "Theodoric of York: Medieval Barber" than learned physicians. ("A little bloodletting and boar's vomit and he'll be fine.")

One is hesitant to use the word quackery—or chicanery for that matter—in describing the practice of Ayurveda, and in fact, there can be no doubt that many of the potions, lotions, tinctures, brews and tonics that are the hallmark of this art do offer legitimate physiologic benefit.

Nevertheless, the supposed effectiveness of these remedies and the accuracy of the Vaidyas' diagnostic techniques are left far more often in doubt than made plausible by Nalin and his subjects.

This scepticism is shown in stark example when Brahmanand Swamigal—the central and senior healer documented by Nalin—demonstrates his regular, but obviously suicidal, consumption of metallic mercury. If that's not a little too eerily reminiscent of Theodoric quipping about a patient "suffering from an imbalance of bodily humours, perhaps caused by a toad or a small dwarf living in her stomach," then not much is.

One of the central implications of the film is that Western medicine is incomplete, cold and one-dimensional in that it seeks to treat only the disease and not the person. Whether this is true or not, there can be no doubt that there are millions in the developed world who are seeking out alternative healing practices to either replace or compliment modern medicine.

It seems unlikely, though, that Nalin's spin-doctored apology for Ayurveda will convince too many people in this part of the globe to renounce the care of their GP and become devotees of tincture of arsenic.





# Turnbuckle turns on movie-goers

## Turnbuckle

Princess Theatre  
3 October–9 October  
www.turnbucklethemovie.com

JASON NORMAN  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Lights! Camera! Mr Laraque, are you ready for your close up? Action! The city of Edmonton is about to have its collective movie-going face knocked off by the movie event of the year: Turnbuckle. It's got laughs, a mammoth-sized Oiler, more laughs, and a cast and crew full of Edmonton slapstick favourites.

Turnbuckle is the result of a collaboration between Cactus Earl Entertainment, Stallion, and The Draft Six, which are the production companies that brought us the likes of such super-low-budget features as *Sonic Brooms* and *Purple Gas*. The film is an introduction to the fictitious world of the Wrestling Association of Northern Canada (WANC) and the crazy characters that dwell within its morally bankrupt walls. The audience follows Kim, a reporter from the *Entertainment X*, as she films a documentary on WANC and meets such outlandishly peculiar wrestling icons as Cowboy and Indian, Mojo Man, and Pretty Man Floyd.

"Chris (Craddock) and I pretty much got the basics of the story down, but all the dialogue is completely improvised," explains Kevin Gillese, the hyperactive Edmonton improv hero and director-writer of the picture. Gillese and his mates are no strangers to making it all up as they go along, as they (and most of those appearing in the production) hail from local theatre-sports groups.



LARAQUE Oilers winger featured in new film and this mercy fight.

When the opportunity to create a film came along, the choice was unanimous when it came to picking improvisation over a solid script. "We have some of the best improv people in the entire world, and Edmonton should be proud of that," Gillese remarks.

Turnbuckle was shot in Edmonton over a four-month period beginning last September with a measly \$10 000 budget. Although by most standards, that sum seems like it would barely cover the spandex to clothe their extras, Gillese says it was actually a big step up from the financial restraints of his previous works. "After [*Sonic Brooms*] we just wanted to come out with something that was just bigger in every way, from the budget to the cast," says Gillese.

And of course, there is little that could be bigger than the six-foot-three, 245-pound Oiler-turn-film-star Georges Laraque, who lends his face to the film. "Georges was just really positive, totally down to earth, it was really great he could come help us out," Gillese remarks. Along with Laraque,

Turnbuckle boasts the talents of Colin Mochrie of *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*, whose cameo Gillese assures will have the crowd giggling like high-school girls during sex-ed class.

The cast and crew of Turnbuckle plan to show off their Edmontonian pride by staging a world-class premiere on 3 October at the Princess Theatre, promising a spectacle of Hollywood proportions. "The premiere is going to be huge: there will be lots of TV coverage and stuff like that. We're showing up in limos dressed up like rock stars, it's going to be great," says Gillese. "In Hollywood, they have big premieres for movies made there and this will be no different."

If the positive attitude of the filmmakers is any indication, this movie should be a big success, and if history has shown us anything about Edmontonians supporting home-grown talent, then this movie should be a huge success. And if you do make it out to opening night, just hope you don't get stuck behind big Georges and his giant movie-star head.

## Ex Hi-Phoniqs singer does his home town proud with first solo effort

### Curtis Santiago

with DJ Vinyl Richie  
New City Likwid Lounge  
Friday, 3 October

ERIKA THORKELSON  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Fresh from Vancouver, Curtis Santiago's looking all the part of an urban cowboy. Sporting sleek red and white Alain Mikli glasses he scored through a lucky coincidence (his first pair were broken at a hockey game but when he wrote the company to have them replaced they offered to sponsor him instead of gouging him for a new pair), it's surprising to hear him rhapsodize about his childhood in Sherwood Park. "As a kid you could still go play in trees because there wasn't a lot of development," he remembers.

Despite all the excitement of his new digs, he's ecstatic to be home for the release of his first solo effort, *Portrait of An Artist*. More than anything, he's just happy to "walk down Whyte Avenue and see familiar faces, people I have a history with," he gushes. "I see people and I think, we used to hang out at a rave and we don't talk anymore, but we had a moment, you know. In Vancouver, it's all new moments but nobody knows where I came from."

Santiago found his first break in Edmonton with the now defunct soul-funk-hip-hop act, the Hi-Phoniqs. From that band, he learned how to entertain a crowd, no matter the size, but he also learned some things to avoid now that he's on his own.

"We were a bar band," he explains. "With my solo project I've been able to incorporate more of a concert-style



URBAN COWBOY Curtis Santiago brings his hipness back home to Edmonton.

deal where my job's not to pack a dance floor to sell drinks anymore, it's just to play my music." Instead he wants nothing more than to hit the festival circuit. "My biggest musical experience was going to Folk Fest a few years ago," he says. "Bars are cool, but I'd rather be able to hit kids of all ages and get little kids and grown-ups dancing on the hill."

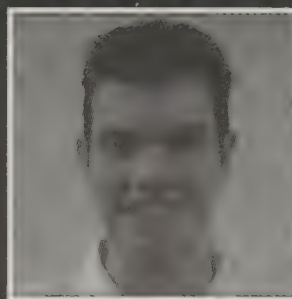
Santiago also met his longtime girlfriend, the inspiration for his Radiohead-esque collaboration with Matt the Alien, "Warm," right here in Edmonton, though the two have since been forced to spend time apart while he pursues music and she goes to school for photography in Montréal.

"We realized a long time ago that if our relationship is going to work then that's the way it's gotta be," he says. "We had the dream of being like Linda McCartney and Paul: her trav-

eling with me and her taking photos and our little babies growing up to be these artsy bohemians on the road, but life takes turns and we're open to that. My first love is my music and I know her first love is her craft."

Despite the distance, Santiago and his unnamed sweetheart find a way to collaborate, and she even provided the photography for his new CD. Still, he takes Edmonton with him wherever he goes. At 24 years old, Santiago would not trade his life today for a million years of restful hometown life. "It feels good to know that I'm doing this for my career," he says excitedly. "I'm doing just music and this is sustaining me. Sometimes it does sustain me well, but you know, just to wake up in the morning and know that my job is to work on these songs and rehearse or write something new, just to be able to create everyday—that's a dream come true."

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Here at the Gateway we love to **kiss** things: other editors, our volunteers, stray cats, and even **used Kleenex**. Yup, we play tongue tonsil like it's going out of style.

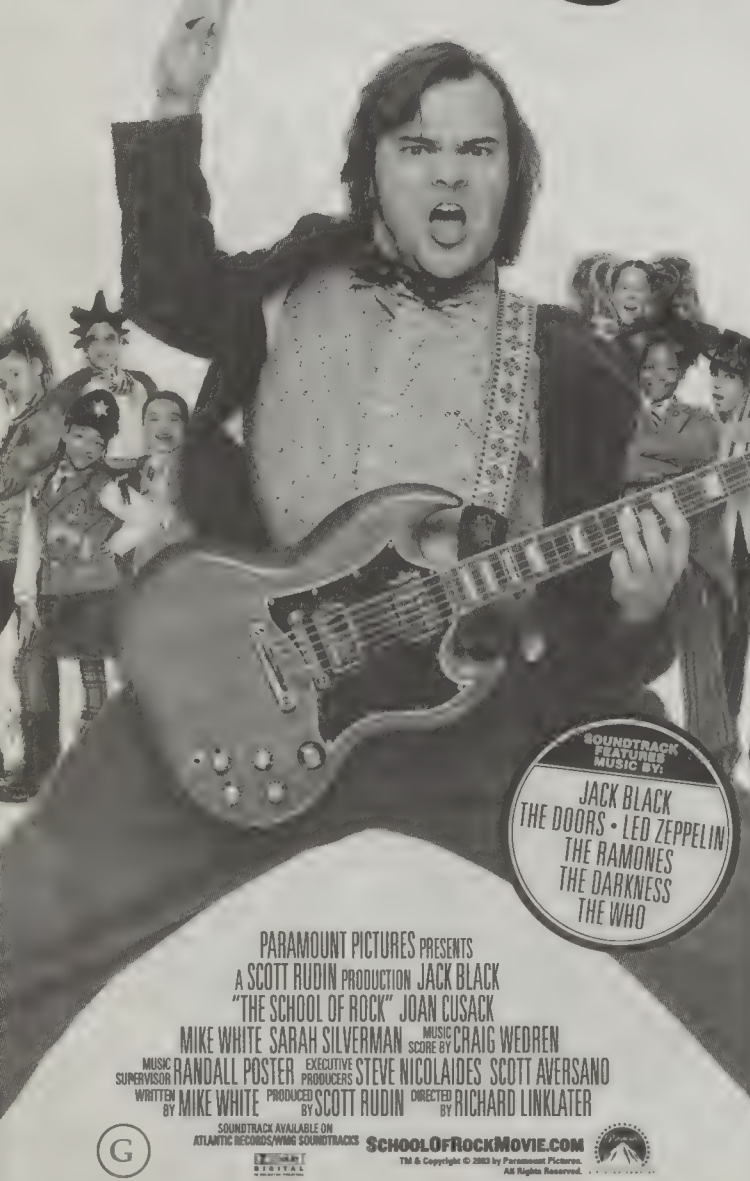
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TAKE NOTES. OCTOBER 3.

## Electronica: not just for pill-heads, candy ravers and noise freaks

## Modulations

Directed by Lara Lee

Metro Cinema

Saturday, 3 October

JEREMY SHRAGGE

Arts &amp; Entertainment Writer

Electronic music is undoubtedly the most misunderstood, misrepresented, and most denigrated genre of audio art born of the 20th century. The problem lies, fundamentally, in the absence of a widely-accepted definition of what constitutes "electronica." For many people, and North Americans in particular, electronica equals techno, which equals raves, which equals drugs. Full stop.

In fact, if one were to take a survey of 100 Canadian twentysomethings, it is unlikely that few more than a handful would be able name a single proper techno artist, let alone give an accurate description of its sound. This manifest ignorance has done more to keep electronic music out of the North American mainstream than any other single factor.

The sad reality is that, in this hemisphere anyway, the current state of affairs is unlikely to change anytime soon. The rave scene is well and truly dead; decent parties have been made inaccessible by government red-tape, over-priced talent and extortionate policing costs. Commercial radio would sooner play whales humping than a house remix; clubs are closing, and the problems are mounting ad nauseam. The situation has not quite yet reached the tits-up phase, but it is well moribund.

There is hope though. Despite the ignorance and homogenizing machinations of mainstream cultural forces, there continues to exist an underground scene in cities across North America, and Edmonton is no exception. In recognition of this fact, the Metro Cinema, in conjunction with CJSR radio's Fundrive 2003, is presenting an exclusive screening of director Lara Lee's authoritative 1998 documentary *Modulations*.

The film traces the history of electronic music from its origins in the Italian Futurists of the pre-WWI era to its myriad late twentieth Century manifestations. In the process, *Modulation* comes as close to defining the genre as has ever been attempted in the past. Any collection of noises, sounds or musical notes produced, modified



SUNGLASSES Geordi LaForge lives on in the electronica scene.

or presented through an electronic medium, the film argues, can potentially be classed as electronica.

The viewer is presented with a cinematic history lecture that is both informative and contextual. The film digresses freely from the traditional chronological model, jumping around in time and space but never losing the sense of logical connection between the various documented developments.

*Modulations* covers electronic music's philosophical founders (Luigi Russolo, John Cage, Karlheinz Stockhausen, Pierre Henry), through its first breakthrough artists (Kraftwerk, Afrika Bambaataa, Donna Summer—yes, the disco queen), and then on to its pinnacle of achievement: the techno, jungle, breaks, drum-and-bass and house DJs that took a predominantly American, underground musical form and turned it into a Euro-centred cultural juggernaut.

The documentary is a series of interviews of musicians, DJs, journalists,

producers, instrument inventors and, in general, anyone and nearly everyone who had a significant role to play in the development of the electronic form. Edited in between the interviews is a rapidly moving collage of random but compelling images. Lee splices in footage of DJ performances, club nights, raves and festivals, news clips, computer-generated graphics and any other visually stimulating, indiscriminate celluloid that could be gotten hold of. And all is set to one of the most varied and expansive electronica soundtracks extant.

The film's greatest accomplishment, however, is its ability to leave viewers (even those who are less than clueless about the music) both entertained and sufficiently educated to never again dismiss electronic music as generic "techno-noise" reserved for candy ravers and pill-heads. And who knows, *Modulations* might just help save a few poor local souls doomed to a life deprived of a proper, bargin' night out. Turn it up.



ASHLEY JENSEN

ONE TALENTED BILLY Pop-punker and lead singer to Canada's Billy Talent blasts it out at their Tuesday night show.



# SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

**First Aid Kit**  
with Love Won Another,  
As The Crow Flies and Busker Daniel  
Friday, 3 October  
Queen Alexandra Hall

A very wise man once said never trust a hippy. This show is a benefit for something, and that probably makes it hippy-like, but since everything seems to be a benefit these days it can probably be overlooked. I'm not entirely sure what it's meant to benefit, but anything that involves Busker Daniel (usually found out front of Army and Navy on Whyte Avenue wailing "Happy Birthday" for drunks) is bound to be entertaining. And the Propagandi-esque punk stylings of Love Won Another are nothing to shake a stick at, either.

So if you're the sort who's got neighbours banging down your door because the apartment has had this distinctly musty new smell since you moved in (I mean incense, of course), this may be your kind of Friday night.

**Rock N Roll High School**  
Metro Cinema  
Friday, 3 October

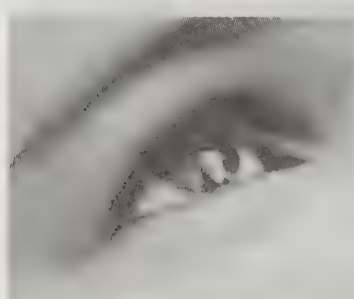


After years of searching, I've finally found the connection between the Ramones and the 1980 Goldie Hawn vehicle, *Private Benjamin*: her name is PJ Soles.

And now this German-born actress, who is also known as the blond chick who got laid and died in both *Carrie* and *Halloween*, will be visiting our little berg in celluloid form.

Okay, so *Rock N Roll High School*—the 1979 camp classic about bunch of California kids who want nothing more than to get themselves to a Ramones show—may be her biggest ever role other than as Dennis Quaid's real life ex-wife, but it's still cool, right? Right? Fine. Just go see the movie.

**Your Eyes**  
U of A Campus



U of A students to be asked to vote on who has most beautiful eyes on campus as part of week-long fundraising events in support of United Way, CNIB and Delta Gamma Foundation. Is it Adam "ring-toss-pants Rozenhart," the *Gateway's* managing editor? Mat "dreamy eyes" Brechtel, the Students' Union President? Or perhaps that creepy hobo who sleeps in HUB and yells things about Jesus saving Camrose all the time? Only you can be the judge.

ERIKA THORKELSON &  
HEATHER ADLER  
Arts & Entertainment Dirty Hippies

# New film explores neorealism, sort of

**Respiro**  
Starring Valeria Golino, Vincenzo Amato,  
Francesco Casisa  
Directed by Emanuele Crialese  
Carneau Theatre  
Opens Friday, 3 October

DAN KASZOR  
Production Editor



Italian cinema was once one of the most respected film industries in the world. In the late '50s and early '60s, the Italian neorealist movement was among one of the most esteemed going, right along side the French new wave; however, it seems time has not been kind to fans of Italian film. While Italy has produced the occasional piece that has been well received outside its own borders, few have been truly great.

*Respiro* seems to be an attempt to recall the glory days of Italy's cinematic past. While other films such as *Life is Beautiful* and *Il Postino* have strayed away from the bleak landscapes and the meandering plots of neorealism, *Respiro* once again embraces them.

*Respiro* centres on a small family who lives in a small, impoverished island near Sicily. Most of the film's action focuses on the Grazia (Valeria Golino), the mother, and her eldest son Pasquale (Francesco Casisa), who share a bond that almost seems incestuous. Grazia is a peculiar character who is often overtaken with manic-depressive episodes, while Pasquale is a rather sullen child who passes his time playing with groups of boys that partake in childish and sometimes dangerous gang warfare.

Much like the films of the past that it's trying to emulate, *Respiro* can't really be summed up with a mere plot summary. The film focuses on the life of the family and how they interact with each other. Although Grazia's antisocial manic depression becomes the focus as the film moves forward, it's never the total purpose of the

story.

The acting in the film is, for the most part, superb. Western audiences mostly know Valeria Golino for being the love interest in *Hot Shots*, but she is able to showcase an impressive array of emotional layers here. She never plays her particularities over the top, but at the same time it's obvious why the people of her small town have problems with her. The same goes for the other members of the family, most notably the performance by Vincenzo Amato, who plays the father: he shows a perfect mix of frustration and love for the wife that he can't fully understand.

The film's greatest flaw comes in the emulation of neorealist style. While older films such as *The Bicycle Thief* presented the institution of poverty as one of sick desperation, the poverty here doesn't seem so dire. The characters live in a nice house, seem to have enough to eat, and have a Vespa scooter to tool around their island with. Also missing is the stark existential hopelessness found in most neorealist films. In essence, *Respiro* is like neorealism with all of the hard edges taken off: there's poverty, but not debilitating poverty; there's hopelessness, but not insurmountable hopelessness. While avoiding these traits probably makes the film more palatable to a greater audience, they water down the artistic aims of the filmmakers.

Still, *Respiro* is worth seeing for its excellent performances and beautiful scenery, even if it does pull some dirty punches below the neorealist belt.



# THE DOWNFALL OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION

HEATHER ADLER

A&E  
Commentary

You will have to excuse me if the Arts & Entertainment section of this fine newspaper frequently skips out on the art portion of our descriptor. You see, my friends, art is a dying fad. Sure, it had a good run back in the days when people were cutting off their ears and painting dogs in plaid suits playing poker, but these days kids don't care about art, and more importantly, neither do most artists.

Almost every day I'm faced with the task of interviewing some singer from some overhyped band, who calls me sweetie-pants and reeks of 15-minute-fame. But what do you talk about with the hundredth band that sounds a lot like those other bands, who all kind of sound like that one band? Talk about their "art," or perhaps query them in hopes of revealing some deep, face-melting revelation about their lyrics? Probably not, because when there is no art, there is nothing to talk about.

Music has become secondary to fashion and gossip. For example, look at the most recent MTV video awards: the only event that garnered any attention at all was the Britney-Christina-Modonna tongue-tossing. Never mind the fact that Britney's performance was clearly lip-synced, nor the fact that all three were direly off key. Oh, and did some artists win some kind of paperweight trophy thing? I guess that's neat, but that's not what sells magazines.

I, too, subscribe to a school of journalism that seeks out interesting stories and that means when their art isn't interesting enough to make all these white pages grey, I hypocritically fall back to the same topics that I preach against.

Since reporting on the trash and the tarts has become the norm, artists seem to have gotten the message loud and clear: scandal, not music, gets you into the press. Whether journalists started this ugly mess by being sensationalistic, or mainstream artists started it by being sucky, it doesn't seem to matter any more. What matters is that things like J-Lo and Ben (or Bennifer as I like to call them) make headlines for humping and real talents go unnoticed because they don't fit quite right in an 8x10 glossy.

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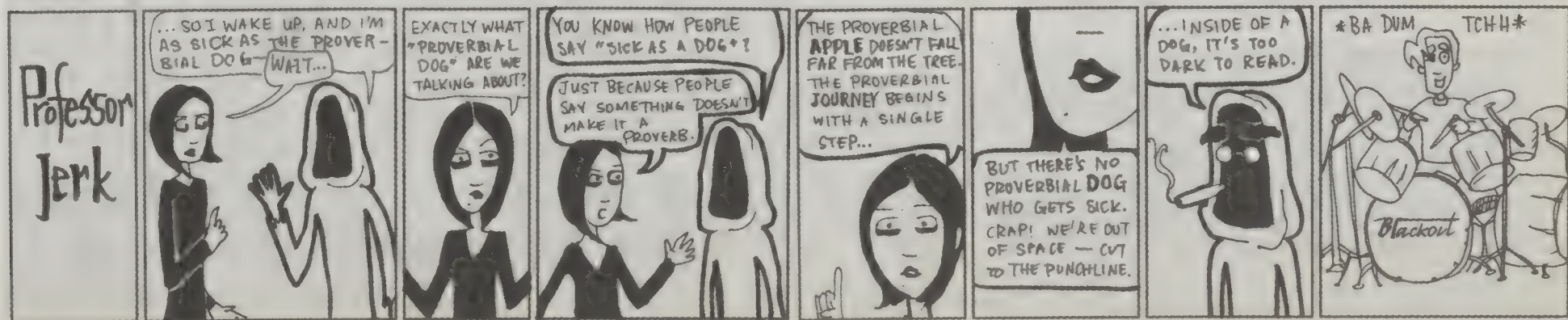
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If so, join our SOCIAL ANXIETY & SHYNESS GROUP

When: 8 Wednesdays, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Start Date: Wednesday, October 8th, 2003  
Register by: Monday, October 6th, 2003 Location: Student Counselling Services, 2-600 SUB  
Facilitators: Dr. Kim Maertz, C. Psych. Dr. Michaela Kadambi, C. Psych.

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Despite all your blog, you're still just a blog in a blog!



Gateway Blog: <http://www.gateway.ualberta.ca/heatherfolder/static/>

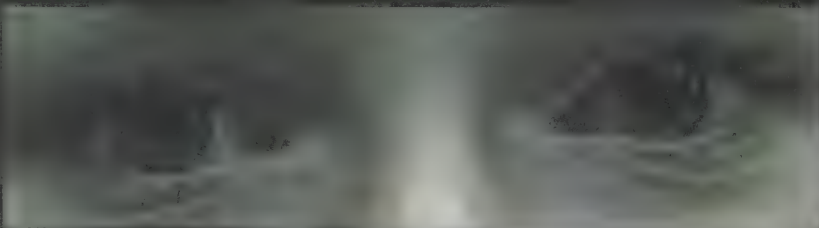
Eye See You

The Delta Gamma foundation is putting on a contest for the person with the sexiest eyes on campus, and we decided to rip them off. The contest, not the eyes.

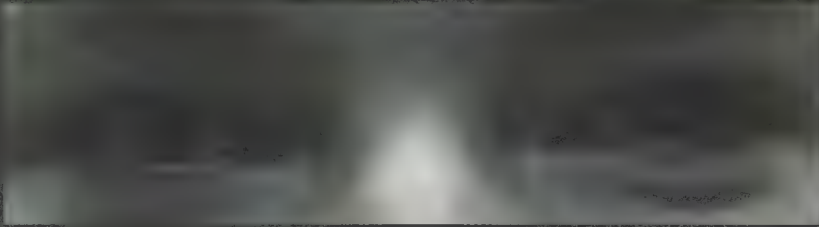
So you decide which Gateway editor has the sexiest eyes, and write 100 words telling us why. Just send your entry to [production@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:production@gateway.ualberta.ca) saying which "eyes are the best" (using the corresponding letters). The person who writes the best 100 words will win a copy of Kazzer's debut CD: *Go For Broke* and will have their short piece printed in the Gateway at some point in the future.

Contest rules: All submissions become property of the Gateway Student Journalism Society. All entrants must be students, you will need to present student ID to collect your prize. The contest closes: 14 October, 2003

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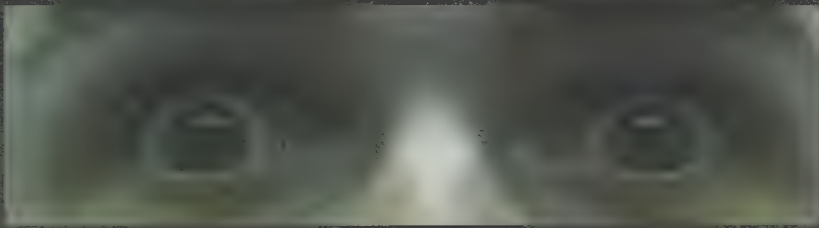
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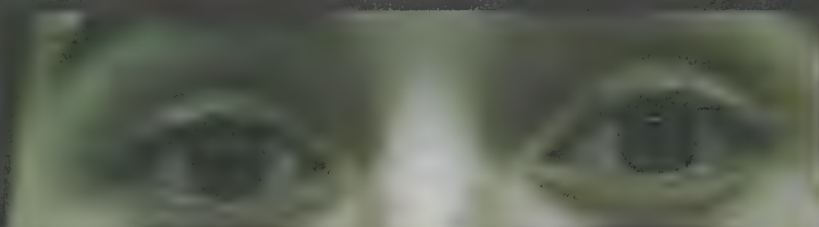
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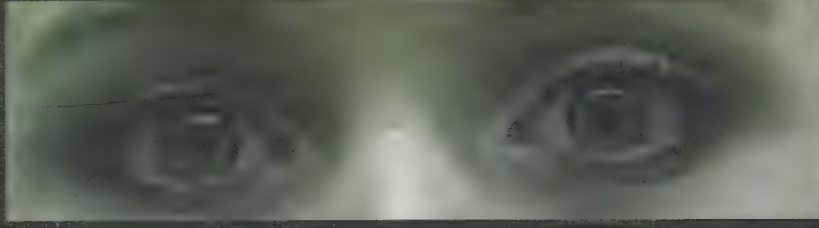
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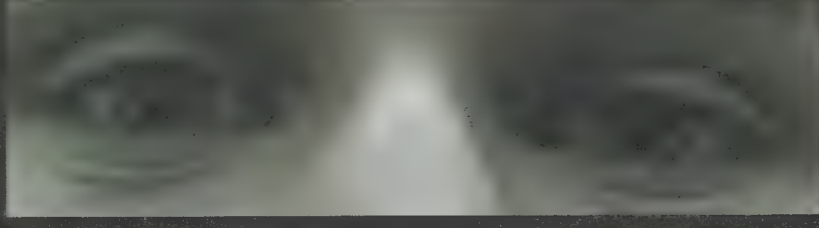
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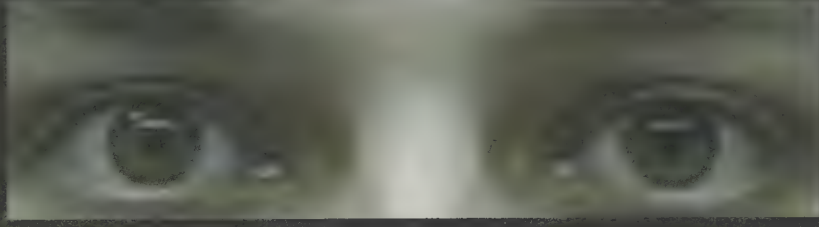
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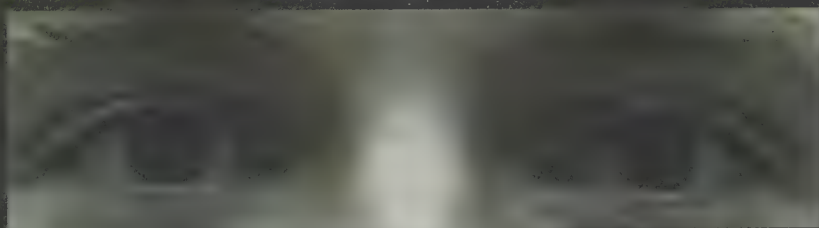
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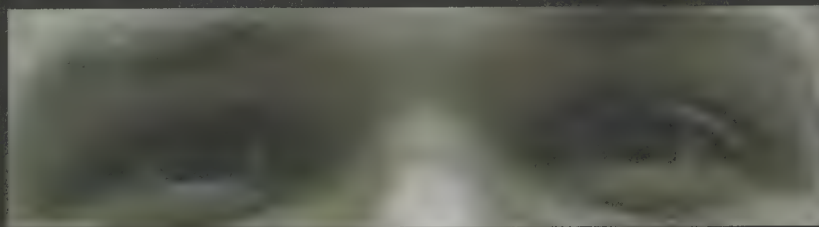
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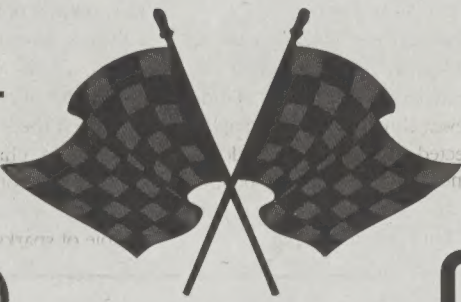


THE GATEWAY  
Dead Eyes Since 1976





READY  
SET  
GO



# Orientation 2003 A Look Back

Orientation has always been the biggest and most widely recognized event at the U of A. The Orientation light bulb logo is notorious and readily associated with such things as first year experience, cheering, volunteering and fun. This year was no exception to this rule, and from the first ONEcard line up Monday morning to the final thank you and farewell Tuesday night, Orientation 2003 was an unparalleled success.

The Pit Stop was our most memorable addition to the Orientation program. For two days, Varsity Field became a 400-person playground, where new students and Orientation volunteers alike ran through hula hoops and around each other to find an answer to the pressing questions: How many hundreds of people can I meet in an hour?

The Presentations this year took a new spin as the program shifted to a one-hour block format. The Chris Kelly Show transformed TL II into a studio set for a late-night talk show complete with special guests, a top 15 and a despondent music guy. Your Campus Mechanic showed students just how many ways there are to learn about services, from throwing an inflatable doll off a ledge to using an overhead projector as a polygraph machine. And it's not every day you see the ETLC lecture theatres covered in hay, makeshift cornfields and volunteers dressed in tinfoil. Overall, the presentations this year taught us all something new about the U of A and its students, "those gentle giants of the sea".

The Presidents' Address has always been the high point of Orientation and this year was the biggest and loudest it's ever been. Dr. Rod Fraser, SU President Mat Brechtel, VP SL Jadene Mah spoke in front of a student audience of over 14,000. The evening also included performances by the Varsity Cheer team and the U of A Mixed Chorus. The highlight of the evening however, was the spectacular view of the entire Hawrelak Amphitheatre filled with candlelight and over a thousand

students cheering, applauding, and generally enjoying the Orientation experience to the fullest.

Those students who have been involved with our program over the years know that you should always expect the unexpected at Orientation. The unexpected can come in many forms, be it free beef in QUAD or an impromptu swordfight between Orientation staff members. What these students as well as all the new students also learn is that despite the surprises (or maybe because of them) Orientation can consistently be relied upon to provide everyone with memories to last them forever.

## A Thanks to our Volunteers

When Orientation goes looking for volunteers in February and March, it has traditionally recruited the cream of the crop. This year, we found about 550 of the best people on campus fun, outgoing, intelligent, friendly and energetic. Orientation Volunteers are some of the most well-rounded and involved students on this campus. And even though it must be busy to be that amazing all the time, each one of them still found 4 days to come out and party it up Orientation-style lots of cheering and matching t-shirts!

The incredible Orientation Volunteers each one of you exceeded expectations this year in terms of volunteer commitment, involvement and performance. We all know that this program couldn't possibly run without volunteers. Orientation demanded a lot of time 4 days of solid energy and dedication. All of you came out and gave what we had asked for and more. And a lot of you found time to come up and get to know the staff at the same time!

The staff unfortunately doesn't get a lot of time to interact directly with the new students during the days of Orientation. Since they are the group of people we run this program for, it's a little unfortunate! Instead we choose the best U of A

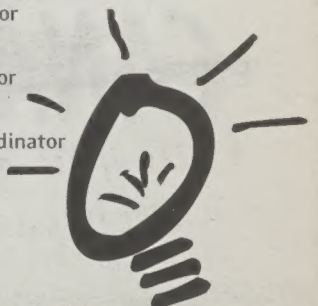
students that we can find and train them to be ambassadors for our program, for the Students' Union and for the University of Alberta. That's a lot of responsibility! For new students on campus, our Orientation Volunteers are the first point of contact and an official representation of what this institution is all about. This year, our Orientation Volunteers did a fantastic job of proudly representing their school and inciting a great deal of excitement amongst the new students. The volume of the cheering at the Presidents' Address serves as testimony to the spectacular job done by every volunteer for our program this year!

Orientation Volunteers, you accepted changes, embraced new sessions and schedules, and performed outstandingly well throughout all four days of our training and Orientation program. Orientation 2003 ran exceptionally well in large part thanks to each and every single one of you. Thank you all, and we hope to see you come back again next year!

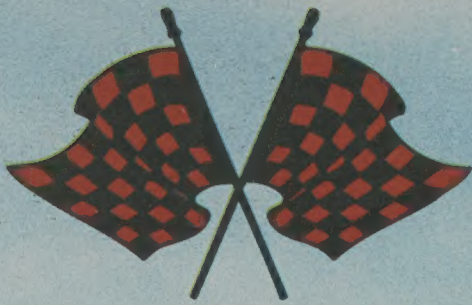
Best of luck to everyone in the upcoming year! Thanks for all of the great memories!

## The Orientation 2003 Staff

NORMA RODENBURG  
Orientation Manager  
ERIN OCHOA  
Orientation Programs Coordinator  
MORGHAN ELLIOT  
Orientation Volunteer Coordinator  
GREG HUTCHINSON  
Orientation Administrative Coordinator







READY  
SET  
GO

**T**hose students who have been involved with our program over the years know that you should always expect the unexpected at Orientation. The unexpected can come in many forms, be it free beef in QUAD or an impromptu swordfight between Orientation staff members. What these students as well as all the new students also learn is that despite the surprises (or maybe because of them) Orientation can consistently be relied upon to provide everyone with memories to last them forever.

A Thanks to our Volunteers



rientation 2003



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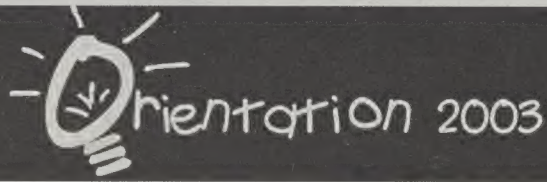








# A Special Thanks to all our wonderful Volunteers



## Orientation Leaders

Aaron Langen  
Aarti Aggarwal  
Adam Capewell  
Adam Girouard  
Adam Henderson  
Adrianna Brown  
Afsheen Mardhani  
Aileen Iloreta  
Alan DeSilva  
Alejandra Rodriguez  
Paniagma  
Alesha Hill  
Alex Abboud  
Alex Polkovsky  
Alicia Chow  
Allison O'Kell  
Alvin Tong  
Amanda Avery  
Amanda Podjarkowski  
Amanda Wong  
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Amy Mireault  
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Ashley Hissett  
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Ashton Friesen  
Ashu Dhanju  
Austin Cheng  
Barbara Katzenback  
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Ben Lau  
Bernadeen Amaratunge  
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Betsy Li  
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Brad Holinski  
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Breanne McCook  
Brent Chizen  
Brian Carpenter  
Brian Lau  
Brian Patrie  
Brian Podrozny  
Brienne Borle  
Bryan Hunter  
Bryce Kustra  
Caleb Yong  
Cameron Elliott  
Cameron Lewis  
Carmen Tecun Olmos  
Caroline Xu  
Chad Brunet  
Charles Campbell  
Chelli Kelly  
Chelsea Thompson  
Chervl Nielsen

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Chris Reich  
Chris Stashko  
Christianne Parrot  
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